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# GIANTS AND DWARFS

BY

EDWARD J. WOOD,

AUTHOR OF

THE "CURIOSITIES OF CLOCKS AND WATCHES FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES," ETC.



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## PREFACE.

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THE Author gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to his esteemed friend JOHN BULLOCK, Esq., of Sevenoaks, for the generous loan of his valuable collection of old and scarce handbills, advertisements, and engravings relating to giants and dwarfs, by the use of which materials the Author has added much to the interest and importance of this book. He also tenders his best thanks to Dr. ROBERT BIGSBY, the learned historian of Repton; to Dr. W. T. LIFF, and to T. C. NOBLE, Esq., for many useful hints and notes upon the subject-matter of this work.

The Author knows that some portions of this book display inconsequence and disconnection; but from the nature of the work, treating as it does of so many different persons, it could hardly be otherwise. His readers may occasionally have to complain of a profusion of detail, particularly where he has given copies of the handbills and advertisements of his pro-



digies. He has, however, considered that these professional puffs, which have been collected by much industry, are curiosities in their way; and if they should sometimes weary the continuous reader, they may perhaps make this volume more useful as a work of reference. The Author feels very much like a showman who is opening a caravan full of wonders, some if not all of which he hopes may interest each one of the enlightened public who may honour him by “walking up.”

*December, 1867.*

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# GIANTOLOGY AND DWARFIANA.



## CHAPTER I.

Cum grano salis—Bible Giants—Nephilim—the Giant Sons of God—Rephaim—Og, king of Bashan—Marvellous Stories about him—Battles with Giants—Anakim—Goliath—Poetically described—Saul—The Statures of Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Moses—Abel's Grave—Man's Stature before the Flood—Early British Legends—Satan—Heathen Mythology and Giants—The Titans—The Gigantes—Anteus—Ephialtes and Otus—Perseus—Tityus—Polyphemus—Homer describes him—Stature of Heathen Heroes—Giants on Etruscan Pottery—Colossal Architecture—Carnac—Egypt—Thebes—Athens—Saxon Idol, Irminsula—Odin—Easter Island—Canton—East-Indian Caves—Imaginations of the Gigantie.

WE recommend the reader of this book at once to lay in a store of salt, a grain of which he may take with advantage after reading each one of the following pages. We, who have read up our Giantology and Dwarfiana, have found that almost every allegation made relative to the height of a giant or of a dwarf must be taken *cum grano salis*. A giant is nothing if he be not very tall; and a dwarf is nothing if he be not very short. Therefore, exaggeration of height, and an endeavour to obtain the

repute of being far beyond the maximum, or below the minimum, of stature, as the case may be, seem to have been at all times the weaknesses of those persons whose abnormal altitude has distinguished them from their fellows. And in the matter of giants and dwarfs the credulity of wonder-loving marvel-mongers has exhibited its usual superabundance, eagerly receiving for truth every apocryphal story about the human elevation, and perpetuating it with liberality.

Giants are common to all nations, both ancient and modern ; hence we find in the early and the later writings of nearly every country which has a literature of its own some extraordinary accounts of these monsters.

Commencing with the Bible, we find in that book many references to men of enormous stature ; but these allusions have led to numerous disputes and theories among Bible expositors, some of whom contend that the individuals referred to were in fact of stupendous height ; and others, that they were not much, if anything, above the common stature, but were giants only in daring wickedness. In this matter philosophy cannot much assist the inquirer ; he must grope his way towards the truth of the dark passages of Eastern history, assisted only by conjecture, philology, and common sense. Although Oriental exaggerations may have gone beyond the facts, we may nevertheless believe that men of amazing stature and proportionate strength did

exist, and awaken the wonder and dread of their contemporaries, in the early times mentioned in the Bible.

Such men are first written of in Genesis vi. 4, under the name of Nephilim, as follows: "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men, which were of old, men of renown." After the time when these marvellous Nephilim came upon the earth, the sons of God, mingling with the daughters of men, produced a race of violent and powerful Gibborim, who were not necessarily giants in our sense of the word, although they were generally represented to be such. Opinions vary upon the question who were "the sons of God," the parents of these people; some Hebraists conceiving them to have been men of power, and others, men with great gifts. The Easterns themselves have, however, indulged in the wildest fancies about these children of the Creator, and have invented various distorted legends respecting them. According to the spurious book of Enoch, certain angels sent by God to guard the earth were seduced from their allegiance by the beauty of the terrestrial women, by whom they had demoniacal sons three thousand cubits high. Some of these monsters were respectively named Aza, Azael, Leuixas, Maehsael, and Sehemehozai. Milton, in his *Paradise Regained*, makes Satan say to Belial:

“ Before the Flood thou with thy lusty crew,  
False-titled sons of God, roaming the earth,  
Cast wanton eyes on the daughters of men,  
And coupled with them, and begot a race.”

However, the Deluge purged the world of these fallen angels and their monstrous children, and they afterwards existed only in imaginative narrative. The stories of the commingling of these heaven-born rebels with the women of the earth have a close affinity to the Greek legends about the mythological deities having offspring by mortal women; and also to the Indian notions of the solar and lunar races of men, Suras and Asuras, who, according to Hindú traditions, sprang from the gods.

The next race of giants mentioned in the Bible, and being, moreover, the first postdiluvian monsters, are the Rephaim, of whom the earliest record is made in Genesis xiv. 5, where we are told that Chedorlaomer and some allied kings defeated them at Ashteroth Karnaim. Afterwards they were, with other tribes, given to Abraham (Genesis xv. 20).

In Deuteronomy ii. 10, 11, we are told, in reference to the wilderness of Moab, that “ the Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites called them Emims.” And in verses 20 and 21 it is said that the land of Ammon “ also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; a peo-

ple great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the Lord destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead." Thus it would seem that these giants were entirely dispersed; and Og king of Bashan is said (Deuteronomy iii. 11) to have been the only remnant of them: "For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man." The cubit of a man is the space from the tip of the finger to the elbow, that is half a yard; therefore Og's bedstead was thirteen feet and a half long. The fact that this mighty ruler was the last of his race is again recorded in Joshua xii. 4: "And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei." And again, in the next chapter, verse 12: "All the kingdom of Og in Bashan, which reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants: for these did Moses smite, and cast them out."

Although Og's bedstead was nine cubits long, it does not follow that he was thirteen feet and a half in height, because a bedstead is usually about one-third longer than the sleeper; therefore it is probable that Og was about nine feet high. He has, however, furnished materials for numerous Eastern legends and idle fables. For instance, he is said to have



escaped the Flood by wading only knee-deep beside the ark, and to have lived three thousand years. One of his bones is reputed to have long served for a bridge over a river; and he is credited with having roasted at the sun a freshly-caught fish. Jonathan Ben Uzziel, one of the authors of the Targums, says in Targum on Numbers xxi. 35, 36: "Og having observed that the camp of the Israelites extended six miles, he went and tore up a mountain six miles at its base, and put it on his head and carried it towards the camp; that he might throw it on the camp and destroy them; but the word of the Lord prepared a worm, which bored a hole in the mountain over his head, so that it fell down upon his shoulders; at the same time his teeth grew out in all directions, so that he could not cast it off his head. Moses, who was himself ten cubits high, seeing Og thus entangled, took an axe ten cubits long, and having leaped ten cubits in height, struck Og on the ankle-bone, so that he fell, and was slain." According to this account, Og's ankle must have been forty-five feet high; but even this statement is surpassed by some others in the Targum, which represent that he was several miles in height; and his thigh-bone is said to have been twelve leagues long.

The giants, defeated in the east of Palestine, seem to have afterwards dwelt in the west, where, in conjunction with the Philistines, they still fought against the Hebrews. In 2 Samuel xxi. 15-22, we read:

“Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. And Ishbi-benob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. . . . And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sebbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant. And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan, the son of Jaare-oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam. And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four-and-twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant. And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah, the brother of David, slew him. These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.” The same facts as the above are recorded in 1 Chronicles xx. 4-8, in almost the same words; but the name of Goliath’s brother is given as Lahmi, and the names of some of the other persons and places mentioned are spelt differently. For example, Gob, Sebbechai, and Saph in Samuel become Gezer, Sibbechai, and Sippai

in Chronieles. The Rephaim giants probably possessed lands west of the river Jordan in early times, inasmuch as a fertile valley south-west of Jerusalem derived its name from them.

The race of giants called Anakim, so named from their stature or their strength, were the descendants of Arba, and dwelt at Hebron, according to Joshua xv. 13, and xxi. 11; and they were variously described as the sons of Anak, the descendants of Anak, and the sons of Anakim. The name of Anak is considered to be that of a race and not that of an individual. They were divided into three tribes, bearing the names of Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai respectively. Their stature appears to have much alarmed the spies sent by Moses into Canaan; who upon their return related that all the people whom they saw in the land were "men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers xiii. 32, 33.) The names of these giants became proverbial with the Israelites, as we learn from Deuteronomy ix. 2: "A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak?" They were, however, utterly dispersed by Joshua; and only a small remnant found refuge in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. Their chief city became the possession of Caleb, and after this time they appear to have died out of Biblical narrative.

Goliath, the famous giant of Gath, the champion of the Philistines, whom David slew, was in height, according to 1 Samuel xvii. 4, six cubits and a span, which, assuming the cubit to be the cubit of a man, would make him nine feet nine inches high; and if a cubit of twenty-one inches, would make him about eleven feet five inches high. Josephus, however, gives his height as four cubits and a span, and describes him as a truly enormous man. In the last-named chapter of Samuel we are told that Goliath's coat of mail weighed five thousand shekels of brass, that is about two hundred and eight pounds; "and the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron," that is about twenty-five pounds. Oriental imagination has added to this story various marvellous exaggerations; and probably it is to these Eastern fancies, which attached gigantic influences to rocks, meteors, volcanic eruptions, and tempests, that we may trace nearly all the records of giants contained in the Bible. We take Og, Ishbi-benob, Goliath, and some others, to have been exceptional instances of huge stature, and as such more particularly described by the Hebrew historians. According to Ahmed al Fassi, the dynastic name of the old giant chiefs was Gialout. Hannah More, in her sacred drama of *David and Goliath*, makes Abner describe the monstrous warrior as follows:

"This man of war, this champion of Philistia,  
Is of the sons of Anak's giant race:

Goliath is his name. His fearful stature,  
Unparallel'd in Israel, measures more  
Than twice three cubits. On his towering head  
A helm of burnish'd brass the giant wears,  
So ponderous it would crush the stoutest man  
In all our hosts. A coat of mailed armour  
Guards his capacious trunk, compared with which  
The amplest oak that spreads his rugged arms  
In Bashan's groves were small. About his neck  
A shining corslet hangs. On his vast thigh  
The plaited cuirass, firmly jointed, stands.  
But who shall tell the wonders of his spear,  
And hope to gain belief? Of massive iron  
Its temper'd frame; not less than the broad beam  
To which the busy weaver hangs his loom:  
Not to be wielded by a mortal hand  
Save by his own."

Saul must have been a giantie man, for we are told in Samuel ix. 2, that "from his shoulders and upwards he was higher than any of the people."

High giants are mentioned in Judith xvi. 7, and giants, famous from the beginning, great in stature, and expert in war, are named in Barueh iii. 26. In 1718, Henrion, a French academicien, endeavoured to show the very great decrease in the height of men between the periods of the Creation and the Christian era. He says Adam was one hundred and twenty-three feet nine inches; Eve, one hundred and eighteen feet, nine inches, and nine lines; Noah, twenty-seven feet; Abraham, twenty feet; and Moses, thirteen feet, in height. If the advent of Christianity had not stopped any further decrease in the stature of mankind, they would, according to this learned speculator, have long since been mere atoms on the earth. The above allegation about Adam's height



is very moderate compared with that made by early Rabbinical writers, who affirm that his head overtopped the atmosphere, and that he touched the Arctic Pole with one hand, and the Antaretic with the other. Traditionary memorials of the primeval giants still exist in Palestine in the form of graves of enormous dimensions; as the grave of Abel, near Damaseus, which is thirty feet long; that of Seth in Anti-Lebanon, which is about the same size; and that of Noah, in Lebanon, which is seventy yards in length.

Most nations had the belief that the men who preceeded them were of immense stature. Monkish historians promulgated this fancy about the earliest possessors of Britain; but they considered that the height of men gradually decreased after the Flood. The *Chronicles of Great Britain*, written by John de Wavrin between 1445 and 1455, relate that in the time of Jahir, the third judge of Israel after Joshua, Lady Albine and her sisters came to, and settled in, an island which they named Albion after her, and which afterwards got the name of Britain. While they were living there the devil assumed the shape of a man, and dwelt among the wicked women, and by them had issue great and terrible giants and giantesses, who afterwards much increased and multiplied, and occupied the land for a long time, namely, until the arrival of Brutus, who conquered them. At the time of his visit there were two giants who were more wonderful than all the rest, and were chiefs

and lords of the country. One of them was called Gomago (Gogmagog), and the other Lancorigam, who before the arrival of Brutus greatly injured and oppressed their neighbours, the Scotch and the Irish.\* Berosus says that the ten antediluvian kings of Chaldea were giants. Milton caught the idea of this early belief in huge stature, when he told us in his *Paradise Lost* of Satan:

“ His other parts besides  
 Prone on the flood, extended long and large,  
 Lay floating many a rood : in bulk as huge  
 As whom the fables name, of monstrous size,  
 Titanian, or Earth-born, that warr'd on Jove,  
 Briareus, or Typhon, whom the den  
 By ancient Tarsus held ; or that sea-beast  
 Leviathan, which God of all his works  
 Created hugest that swim the ocean stream.

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*

His spear—to equal which the tallest pine  
 Hewn on Norwegian hills, to be the mast  
 Of some great admiral, were but a wand.”

We find profane history as fertile in stories of giants as Biblical history. Heathen mythology is filled with such marvellous legends. Foremost are those of the Titans, who were, according to some, forty-five in number, and were the sons of Uranus or Cœlus, by Ge or Terra, his mother, whom he married. They were all of gigantic stature and proportionate strength. Their wars against the gods are very celebrated in mythology. They were so

\* Vide page 48.

much oppressed by their father, that they conspired against him; and they were assisted by their mother, who provided them with a scythe, with which one of them wounded his father. From the blood that flowed sprang the Gigantes, men of most prodigious size and fearful aspect. Some had terrible faces and the tails of dragons; and others, as Cottus, Briareus, and Gyges, had fifty heads, one hundred arms, and serpents in the place of legs. The defeat of their brethren, the Titans, incensed them against Jupiter; and they all conspired to dethrone him. They accordingly made an attack upon the gods with huge rocks and trees and burning woods, under the leadership of Porphyriion and Aleyoneus, the most formidable among them; and they also heaped Mount Ossa upon Pelion to scale the heavens. They were invincible so long as they remained in their native land, and were not liable to be killed by anyone except a mortal. Hercules, the first hero of profane historians, who gave him seven feet of height, was employed by the gods to make war against the Gigantes, and accordingly he killed Aleyoneus; but as the giant fell upon the earth he came to life again. Hercules, however, dragged him out of his native land, and finally slew him. Porphyriion attacked Hercules, but was killed by him and Zeus combined, the former using his arrows, and the latter a flash of lightning. The remaining giants were then killed by the gods and Hercules; and some of them were crushed to pieces under mountains, others

were flayed alive, others were beaten to death with clubs, and others were buried by their conquerors under volcanic islands. Lempriere says the origin of the story of the Gigantes must be sought for in such physical phenomena as volcanic disruptions; and it is to be noticed that Homer and later writers place these monsters in volcanic districts.

Antæus, a giant of Libya, the son of Terra, was so strong in wrestling that he boasted he would erect a temple to his father, Neptune, with the skulls of his conquered antagonists. Hercules attacked him, and, as he received new strength from his mother as often as he touched the earth, the hero lifted him up into the air, and pressed him to death in his arms. Plutarch mentions that Sertorius opened the grave of Antæus in Africa, and found therein a skeleton which measured sixty cubits in length.

Quaint old Lambarde remembered a story of the mythological giants, and records it as follows: "But as Ephialtes and Otus, the sonnes of Neptune, who (as the poets feigne) waxed nine inches every moneth, were so heaved up with the opinion and conceite of their owne length and hautinesse, that they assaulted heaven, intending to have pulled tho gods out of their places, and were therefore shot thorowe, and slaine with the arrowes of the gods." Homer writes of these samo monsters:

"Hence Ephialtes, hence stern Otus sprung,  
More fierce than giants, more than giants strong;  
The earth o'erburden'd groan'd beneath their weight;  
None but Orion e'er surpass'd their height.

The wondrous youths had scarce nine winters told,  
When high in air, tremendous to behold,  
Nine ells aloft they rear'd their tow'ring head."

Herodotus states that the shoes of Perseus measured three feet in length; and the Egyptians asserted that he often appeared among them wearing shoes two cubits long. Tityus, a celebrated giant, was of such a prodigious size that his mother died in giving birth to him. He attempted to offer violence to Latona; but that goddess called to her aid her children, who killed him with their arrows. Homer says that this monster, when extended on the ground, covered nine acres. Polyphemus, the famed Cyclops, is represented to have been of wonderful strength and stature. He fed upon human flesh, and kept his flocks on the coast of Sicily, when Ulysses, upon his return from the Trojan war, was driven there. The Grecian prince, with twelve of his companions, visited the coast and were seized by Polyphemus, who confined them in his cave, and daily devoured two of them. Ulysses would have shared the same fate as his companions, had he not intoxicated the Cyclops, and put out his one eye with a firebrand while he was asleep. Polyphemus was awakened by the sudden pain; but he stopped the entrance of his cave. Ulysses, however, made his escape by creeping between the legs of the rams of the giant as they passed out to feed on the mountains. Homer, in his *Odyssey*, describes the Cyclops as

"A form enormous; far unlike the race  
Of human birth, in stature or in face ;



As some lone mountain's monstrous growth he stood,  
Crown'd with rough thickets and a nodding wood.

\* \* \* \* \*

Near half a forest on his back he bore,  
And cast the ponderous burden at the door.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then, heav'd on high, a rock's enormous weight  
To the cave's mouth he roll'd, and clos'd the gate—  
Scarce twenty-four wheel'd cars, compact and strong,  
The massy load could bear, or roll along.

\* \* \* \* \*

The monster's club within the cave I spy'd,  
A tree of stateliest growth, and yet undry'd,  
Green from the wood; of height and bulk so vast,  
The largest ship might claim it for a mast."

According to Homer there was a race of gigantic and savage men dwelling in the island of Trinacria, whence they were extirpated by Eurymedon, on account of their overbearing insolence to the gods. The Grecian heroes, during the Trojan war, and Turnus in Italy, are said to have attacked their enemies by throwing stones which several men of the succeeding ages were unable to move. Apollodorus, Hesiod, Hyginus, Ovid, Pausanias, Virgil, and others, support the marvellous stories told about the gigantic size of some of the heathen gods and heroes. Indeed, all the Latin and Greek poets and historians had a common opinion that they and their contemporaries were dwarfs compared with their ancestors. Homer was unceasingly complaining that men were of less stature in his day than they had formerly been; and Virgil reckons that posterity would behold with admiration the huge bones of

those Romans who fell in the civil wars, when afterwards they should accidentally be discovered :

*“Grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulchris.”*

The body of Orestes, found at Tegea, was, according to the Greeks, upwards of ten feet, or, as some say, eleven feet and a half in length. The belief in giants was part of the everyday life of the ancient Greeks and Romans. They even represented such marvels upon their pottery. For example, an Etruscan cup found at Canino displays the giant Aleyoneus naked and asleep on a pillow, while Hercules with a club approaches to slay him. Another similar cup, found at the same place, represents Baeclus hurling a lance into the breast of an overthrown giant, around whose body a serpent is entwined ; while another giant, upon his feet, tries to kill the serpent with his lance. Besides believing in positive giants, the Greeks gave to all their heroes a little more than the ordinary stature ; and in their tragedy they increased the height of their actors to something over six feet. This was effected by buskins, which raised them four or five inches ; while gauntlets lengthened their arms, and every part of their bodies was rendered proportionately stouter.

The ancient people of most countries seem to have possessed in the strongest degree a faith in giantology, as evidenced by the vast images of their gods and their colossal monuments of architecture. For example, in front of the portals of the palace of Carnac

or Karnae, in Egypt, are gigantic human statues; and in one of the courts are twelve immense stone figures fifty-two feet high, which seem to impress upon the beholder's sense that he is entering a home of departed giants, but which might more fittingly bring to mind the exelamation of a moralist, "O that man should ape the attempts of a Titan with the capacity of a pigmy and the existenee of an ephemeris!" The adjaeent palaeae of Luxor has two granite statues, each thirty-eight feet high, at the entrance. The ruins of the Memnonium, near Thebes, eonsist of three huge figures, now thrown down, one being sixty-four feet long. The quarries of Silsileh, in Egypt, eontain unfinished figures of enormous size. In front of the temple of Abou Limbel are statues sixty feet in height, and twenty-one feet aecross the shoulders. The Colossus of Rhodes is another example of aneient taste for the vast in the human figure. In the Parthenon of Athens, many years before Christ, was a statue of Minerva twenty-six eubits, or thirty-six English feet, high. In the temple of Juno at Argos was a figure of that goddess of similar eolossal proportions. The temple of Jupiter at Olympia, before Christ, contained a seated statue of the god, which rose almost to the ceiling of the building, and that was sixty-eight feet high. The Saxon idol, Irminsula, an image in the form of an armed warrior, which was thrown down in 772 by Charlemagne, was about eleven feet long. Odin, another deity of the Saxons, was usually represented

by a great log of wood. The worshippers of Odin believed that the celestial dome, as erected by that god, was formed from the skull of Ymer, the great chief of a race of Rimthursar, or evil spirits of gigantic bulk, who inhabited Chaos. At the four corners of the dome, north, south, east, and west, were placed certain dwarfs, whose duty it was to sustain it. Captain Cook found in Easter Island, in the South Seas, many gigantic human statues, one of which measured fifteen feet in length, and six feet in breadth over the shoulders. Another was twenty-seven feet long, and eight feet wide; and another standing cast a shade sufficient to shelter nearly thirty persons from the rays of the sun. It was believed that these huge figures marked the burying-places of distinguished native chiefs. Here one might say with the poet, that little was visible,

“ Save here and there  
An empty tomb, a fragment like a limb  
Of some dismembered giant.”

At the outer gate of the temple of Longevity at Canton were four gigantic figures, whose faces respectively were coloured green, pale, black, and red. The red-faced giant had in one hand a sword, with which it was said he would, on the last day, smite off the heads of all mankind at one blow. The caves of Cannara, Ambola, and Elephanta, in the East Indies, which were examined in 1783, contained many gigantic carved figures. No doubt these various ancient representations of huge human forms were the

corporeal shapes of those gigantic myths which existed in the imaginations of our ancestors, and which, having been perpetuated in stone, served to aid and continue the early belief in giants, and man's innate reverence for the colossal.



## CHAPTER II.

Huge Skeleton found at Crete—Gabbaras, Giant of Claudius Cæsar—Posio and Secundilla—Mummies in the Sallustian Gardens—Egyptian Sarcophagus—Large Skeleton found during the Cretan War—Emperor Maximus—Emperors Jovianus and Charlemagne—Ferragus—Ænotherus—Huge Skeletons found on the Orontes and in Mount Sigæ—Antonius—Giant Child of Euthymenes—Large Bodies found—Hartebenunf—Nævius Pollio—Eleazar, a Giant Jew—Giant Woman—Pallas—The Skeleton of Polyphemus—Skeletons in Sicily—in Thessalonica—Fossil Tooth found at Utica—Skeleton in Bohemia—Maundeville's Testimony of Giants—Valence Giants—Rouen Giant, Ricon de Vallemont—Sicily Giants—Giants with Canute and Malcolm—Giant of St. Bees—Giant's Field—Theutobochus—Isoret—Gigantic Bones in Aldermanbury—Giant Guanche—Austrian Giant—Giant's Tooth—Thigh-bones of Giants—Gigantic Bones found in England—Cangiek Giants—Bones at Lucerne—in Staffordshire—in Macedonia—Bucart—Large Bones in Essex—Large Teeth in New England—Skeleton in Calabria—Little John—Giant's Oak—Bones in Derbyshire—in Herefordshire—at Hythe—at Ripon—at Russun—Giants' Bones examined critically—Bones Mineral Productions—Ancient British Remains—Stonehenge—Giants' Dance—Merlin—Giant's Grave at Penrith—Legends of—Giant's Thumb—Long Meg and her Daughters—Giant's Grave in Dorsetshire—in Lancashire—in Yorkshire—in Northumberland—in Leicestershire—Bell's Grave—The Devil of Mount Sorrel—Giant's Grave in Ireland—on the Bosphorus—Giant's Chamber—Giant's Stairs—Maemahon—Giant's Cave in Wiltshire—near Penrith—Maiden's Step—Torquin—Giant's Chair—Giant's Cave in Cornwall—Sugar and Water Sunday—Giant's Causeways—Pen-y-Gair—Giant in Dorsetshire—Long Man of Wilmington—Gogmagog's Hills—Devil's Works.

PLINY says that by an earthquake in Crete a mountain was opened, and in it was discovered a skele-

ton standing upright, forty-six cubits long, which was supposed to be that of Orion or Otus. The same author relates that in the time of Claudius Cæsar there was a man, named Gabbaras, brought by that Emperor from Arabia to Rome, who was nine feet nine inches high (about nine feet four inches and a half English measure), "the tallest man that has been seen in our times." Plot in his *Oxfordshire*, 1676, writing of this man's stature, says: "which being a size very proportionable to our bone found at Cornwall, I am rather inclined to believe that Claudius brought this Gabbaras into Britain with him, who possibly might dye and lay his bones here, than that they ever belonged to an elephant." Hardouin supposes that the name Gabbaras was not an individual one, but a term derived from the Hebrew, descriptive of his remarkable size. He supposes also that this was the same individual as the one mentioned by Tacitus as Acharus, a king of the Arabians.

Even this giant was not so tall as Posio and Secundilla, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar, whose bodies were preserved as curiosities in a museum in the Sallustian Gardens, and each of whom measured in length ten feet three inches. It should, however, be observed that these mummies might have been counterfeits, or, if genuine, might have been made larger than the natural size. Sir J. Chardin, and other travellers, have observed the ancient tendency to make mummies and tombs much larger than the true dimensions of men, in order to create an im-

pression of wonder. We may take for one example the antique coffin-shaped Egyptian sarcophagus which was discovered by Belzoni in 1817, near Thebes, and which is now in Soane's Museum. It is nine feet four inches in length, but it is taken to have been intended for a man of no more than the common stature.

During the Cretan war there was discovered a body of prodigious size. The rivers rose to an unusual height, and when the floods were gone, in a great cleft of the earth there was found the carcass of a man, of the length of thirty-three cubits, or near forty-two feet. Lucius Flaccus, the then legate, and Metellus himself, allured with the novelty of the report, went on purpose to the place to take a view of it; and they saw there what upon hearsay they had imagined to be a fable. Phlegon mentions the discovery of several gigantic skeletons.

The Emperor Maximus was about eight feet and a half or nine feet high; he was also of great bulk; and was in the habit of using his wife's bracelet for a thumb-ring. His shoe was a foot longer than that of any other man. His strength was so great, that he was able to draw a carriage which two oxen could not move. He could strike out a horse's teeth with a blow of his fist, and break its thigh with a kick. He generally ate forty pounds' weight of flesh, and drank six gallons of wine, every day. Before he became emperor he overcame sixteen slaves in running, one after the other. He then kept up with the

emperor on horseback, and having fatigued him in the course, he was opposed by seven of the most active soldiers, and easily conquered them. The Emperor Jovianus was also a man of gigantic stature; and so was Charlemagne, but he was inferior in height to the two former. The giant Ferragus, slain by Roland the nephew of Charlemagne, was eighteen feet high. Aventine, in his *Annals of Bavaria*, says that Charlemagne had in his army a giant, named Ænothus, a native of Turgau, near the Lake of Constance, who threw down whole battalions, as he would have mowed grass.

Philostrato says that by the falling in of one of the banks of the Orontes, a body forty-six feet in length was discovered in the sepulchre belonging to the Ethiopian Ariadne. He adds that in a cavern of Mount Sigea the body of a giant measuring upwards of thirty feet was found.

Antonius, who was born in Syria during the reign of Theodosius, was seven feet seven inches high; but his feet were not proportionate to his body, being small. We are informed by Niephorus that he died at the age of twenty-five years.

The son of Euthymenes of Salamis was three cubits in height at the age of three years; he was slow of gait and dull of comprehension; he had attained puberty, and his voice was strong, like that of a man. He died suddenly of convulsions of the limbs, at the completion of his third year.

Artaxerxes, of the family of Achæmenidæ, a man

in great favour with Xerxes, was the tallest man among the Persians; for he measured only four fingers' breadth short of five cubits, according to the royal standard, which in our measure would be about seven feet.

Phlegénitral says that in the famous cavern of Diana, in Dalmatia, many bodies of the length of six yards were discovered. He likewise tells us that the Carthaginians, when sinking their trenches, met with two coffins, each containing the skeleton of a giant. The length of one was twenty-three cubits, and of the other twenty-four cubits. He adds, that in the Cimmerian Bosphorus an earthquake brought to light several huge bones, which being arranged formed an enormous human skeleton twenty-four cubits in length.

Saxo, the grammarian, relates that the giant Hartebenunf was thirteen and a half feet high, and that he had twelve companions, who were each twenty-eight feet.

Columella speaks of Cicero as mentioning Nævius Pollio, a giant, who was a foot taller than anyone else; and of whom Pliny says that he was so great that he was regarded as a prodigy, and so heavy a press of people came to see him, that he was in danger of being killed. Josephus tells us that among the hostages whom the King of Persia sent to Rome, after a peace, was a Jew called Eleazar, and surnamed The Giant, who was seven cubits, or over ten feet, in height. Strabo speaks of a royal gigantic



champion slain by Antimenidas, brother of Alcæus. St. Augustine reports that a woman who came to Rome shortly before the sacking thereof by the Goths was of so giant-like a height, that she was far above the many who flocked to see her ; and he adds that both her parents were of the ordinary stature.

Kircher tells us of a perfect skeleton which was dug out of a stone sepulchre near Rome, in the reign of the Emperor Henry II., and which, by an inscription attached to it, was known to be that of Pallas, who was slain by Turnus, and was higher than the walls of the city. The same author tells us that another skeleton was found near Palermo, that must have belonged to a man four hundred feet high, and who therefore could have been no other than one of the Cyclops, most probably Polyphemus himself, who might

“ Easily have overstepped  
Goliath’s helmèd head, or that huge king  
Of Basan, hugest of the Anakim.”

Fazellus tells us that in 1342 the remains of Polyphemus were found in Sicily, near Mount Eripana. “The giant was seated, with his left hand resting on the mast of a ship, terminated like a club, and carrying fifteen hundredweight of lead. It crumbled into dust upon being touched, except part of his skull, which would have contained several bushels of corn. Three teeth, of which the least weighed one hundred ounces, and a thigh-bone

one hundred and twenty feet long, were still perfect."

Plutarch says that upon opening a sepulchre in Mauritania a carcass was found of the length of seventy cubits. Kircher speaks of a giant of Mount Erech, near Drepanum in Sicily, who was two hundred cubits high; and of one in Tangier, in Mauritania, who was sixty (query seventy?) cubits in height. The same author has given the measurements of several other colossal men, and exhibits them in an engraving adapted to a scale, and placed in order, from the common size up to that of Polyphemus.

According to the relation of Father Jerome de Monceaux, the skeleton of a giant ninety-six feet long was found in a wall at Chailliot, near Thessalonica in Macedonia. This fact was communicated to him by Father Jerome de Rhetel, a missionary in the Levant, who, in a letter written from Scio, stated that this giant's skull was found entire, and could contain two hundred and ten pounds of corn; that a tooth belonging to the under-jaw, when drawn, weighed fifteen pounds, and was seven inches two lines in length; that the smallest bone of the little toe of one of his feet was equal to it in size; that the arm-bone from the elbow to the wrist was two feet, four inches, eight lines round; and that two soldiers, with their jackets and coats with large sleeves on, easily passed their arms thus covered through the cavity of the bone. Quenel, the French consul at Thessalonica, ordered an account of this skeleton to be

drawn up and deposited in the Chancery. He received from the Pasha the principal bones, and purchased the remainder from other persons who had secured them.

St. Augustine, who believed that there were many giants born of the race of Seth, says that he, with others, saw on the shore near Utica a fossil human tooth, which had been cast up by the sea, and which was a hundred times the size of the tooth of any person living. At Totu in Bohemia, in the year 758, was found a skeleton, the head of which could scarcely be encompassed by the arms of two men joined together, and whose shin-bones, which were so late as 1764 kept in the castle of that city, were twenty-six feet long, by which it may be supposed that the entire body exceeded one hundred and ten feet in length. Our own historians inform us that in 1171 the bones of a giant fifty feet long were found in England. Sir John Maundeville, the marvel-loving voyager of about 1322 to 1356, writing of his travels in Palestine, says that in that country might be seen the rock, and the place of the iron chain fastenings, where Andromeda, the great giant, was found before Noah's flood, a rib of whose side, forty feet long, was still shown. The knight's amazement at this bone seems to have led him into confusion, for the classical story of the virgin Andromeda does not tell us that she was a giantess. Shakespeare, however, refers to "the giant Andromede." Maundeville's love of the miraculous is further evidenced in his account of an island

in the Japanese seas, of which he says: "In on of theise yles ben folk of gret stature, as geauntes; and thei ben hidouse for to loke upon; and thei han but on eye, and that is in the myddylle of the front." Fulgesius says that in the reign of Charles VII. of France a sepulchre, with the bones of a giant thirty feet long, was to be seen, which the Rhone in its excavations had exposed on the hills of Vivarais, opposite Valenec.

Cœlius Rhodiginus says that during the reign of Louis XI. the body of a giant eighteen feet in length was discovered upon the banks of a river which flows through St. Peray, opposite Valence, which seems to have been a country famous for the dislodgment of lengthy skeletons, and for the credulity necessary to give them a giantie reputation.

In Rouen, in the ditches near the Jaeobins, in 1509, was found a stone tomb, containing a skeleton, whose skull held a bushel of eorn, and whose shin-bone reached up to the girdles of the tallest men, it being about four feet long; consequently the body must have been seventeen or eighteen feet high. Upon the tomb was a plate of copper, engraved—"In this tomb lies the noble and puissant lord, the Chevalier Ricon de Vallemont, and his bones." According to Le Cat, two human skeletons were discovered by the Athenians near their city, one of which measured thirty-six, and the other thirty-four, feet in length. Fazellus, in his *History of Sicily*, says that in a field called Gibilo, about a mile south



of Mazarino in Sicily, in 1516, was found by one Johannes a skeleton thirty feet high, the head of which was the size of a hogshcad, and each of the teeth of which weighed five ounces. Fazellus also says that in a small village between Syracuse and Leontium, a great number of sepulchres and gigantic skeletons were found, and that many more of the like kind were discovered near Hicara, in an immense cavern situated at the foot of a mountain. Another skeleton, thirty feet long, was found by Paulus Leontinus in Sicily, not far from Palermo, in 1548; and another, thirty-three feet in length, in 1550. And afterwards another, thirty feet long, was dug up. The skeletons found in 1516 and 1548 fell to dust immediately after they were exposed to the air, except the teeth.

Turner, in his *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, says that in 1520 some gigantic bones were found in the place of the conflicts between Canute and Malcolm in 1031, when the former penetrated Scotland, and subjugated the latter and two other kings. In 1550, some huge bones, said to have belonged to American giants, were shown at Mexico and other places. Turner, the naturalist, says that in 1610 the thigh-bone of a man of enormous size was exhibited in London.

In Jefferson's *History and Antiquities of Alledale above Derwent* is the following account of the discovery of the remains of a giant at St. Bees, Cumberland, extracted from a manuscript in the



library of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle: "A true report of Hugh Hodson, of Thorneway, in Cumberland, to S<sup>r</sup> Rob. Cewell (query Sewell?) of a gyant found at St. Bees, in Cumberland. The said gyant was buried 4 yards deep in the ground, w<sup>ch</sup> is now a eorn field. It was 4 yards and a half long, and was in complete armour: his sword and his battle-axe lying by him. His sword was two spans broad, and more than two yards long. The head of his battle-axe a yard long, the shaft of it all of iron, as thick as a man's thigh, and more than two yards long. His teeth were 6 inches long, and 2 inches broad; his forehead was more than two spans and a half broad. His eline bone could containe 3 pecks of oatmeale. His armour, sword, and battle-axe are at Mr. Sand's, of Redington (Rottington), and at Mr. Wyber's, of St. Bees."

In 1613 some masons, digging near the ruins of a castle in Dauphiné, in a field which by tradition had long been called "The Giant's Field," at the depth of eighteen feet discovered a briek tomb, thirty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet high, on which was a gray stone with the words "Theuto-bochus Rex" cut thereon. When the tomb was opened, they found a human skeleton entire, twenty-five feet and a half long, ten feet wide across the shoulders, and five feet deep from the breast to the back. His teeth were about the size of an ox's foot, and his shin-bone measured four feet in length. "On a tellement cru à l'existence de géans, que non seule-

ment le Docteur Habieot prétendit avoir trouvé, en 1613, les restes de Teutobochus, qui aurait eu 25 pieds de haut.” John Rioland, a celebrated naturalist, wrote in 1613 a tract entitled *Gigantomachia*, in refutation of Habieot’s account of the discovery of these bones. Two other tracts were written upon this controversy, and they were followed by Rioland’s *Giantologie*. He says that some years before, the tomb of the giant Isoret, who was twenty feet high, was to be seen in the suburbs of St. Germaine, at Paris. Theutobochus, the king of the Germans, who was vanquished by Marins, is represented by Florus to have been so very tall that he was seen above all the trophies or spoils of the enemies, which were carried upon the tops of spears.

Weever, in his *Funeral Monuments*, 1631, says that in the cloister of the churchyard of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, hanging fastened to a post, was “the shanke bone of a man, wondrous great and large, in length 28 inches and a halfe, of assise: with the pourtraiture of a giant-like person, vpon a table, with” an inscription.

The Chevalier Seory, in his voyage to the Pike of Teneriffe, found in one of the sepulchral caverns of that mountain the head of a Gnanehe, who had eighty teeth, and whose body was not less than fifteen feet long. The *Theatrum Europæum* says that in 1645 the Swedes dug up near Crems, in Austria, a giant’s skeleton, whose head was as big as a medium-sized table; one tooth weighed five pounds and a

half, and the bone of his arm was as big as an ordinary man's middle. Eckstormius confirms this; and the author of the *Topographia of Brunswick* says that there was found in the Bauman's Cave a human skull of a gigantic size. A subsequent writer argues with refreshing *naïveté* that the bigness of these bones seems to argue that they could not have been human, and therefore it is probable that either they increased under ground, or else were a *lusus nature*; and that supposing the tooth of a common man weighed half an ounce, which was too much, then, taking the tooth of the giant found by the Swedes to weigh five pounds and a half, he must have had a weight answerable to one hundred and seventy-six times the bulk of a middle-sized man.

The *News*, for June 2d, 1664, advertised that at the Mitre, near the west end of St. Paul's, was to be seen a rare collection of curiosities, among which was the "huge thigh-bone of a giant." After the great fire of 1666, upon pulling down the church of St. Mary Wool-Church, and making the site into a market-place, was found a huge thigh-bone, which was assumed to have belonged to a woman, and which was afterwards to be seen at the King's Head Tavern at Greenwich.

In opening the ground in the churchyard of Wotton, near Dorking in Surrey, to enlarge the vault of the Evelyn family, in the reign of Charles II., was found a human skeleton which measured nine feet three inches in length. John Somner, in Sep-

tember, 1668, in sinking a well at Chartham, near Canterbury, within a few yards of the river, found, at the depth of about seventeen feet, a quantity of strange and monstrous bones, some being whole, and others broken, with four teeth, sound and entire, but partially petrified, each tooth weighing about half a pound, and some of them almost as large as a man's fist. Ludovicius Vives mentions such a tooth, but a little larger, which was shown to him as one of St. Christopher's teeth, and was kept in a church that bore his name. A similar tooth was seen by Aeosta in India, where it had been dug out of the ground in a house with many other bones, which, being put together, represented a skeleton of formidable size, and were assumed to be human.

Collinson, in his *History of Somersetshire*, tells us that in sinking a well in the parish of Wedmore, in the year 1670, there were found, at the depth of thirteen feet, the remains (according to Gibbons, in his discourse of Stonehenge, at the end of Langtoft's *Chronicle*) of one of the Cangiok giants, a people supposed to have formerly inhabited these parts. The top of the skull was said to have been an inch thick, and one of the teeth was three inches long above the roots, three inches and a quarter round, and after the root was broken off it weighed three ounces and a half.

Plot, in his *Oxfordshire*, 1676, says that a skeleton seventeen feet high was then to be seen in the town-hall at Lucerne. It had been found under an

old oak in Willisau, near the village of Reyden. He instances numerous giantie bones which had been dug up in England, and adds: "It remains that (notwithstanding their extravagant magnitude) they must have been the bones of men or women; nor doth anything hinder but they may have been so, provided it be clearly made out, that there have been men and women of proportionable stature in all ages of the world, down even to our own days." In his *Staffordshire*, 1686, he says that, "In the digging open a Low on Ecton Hill, near Warslow, in this county, there were found men's bones, as I was told, of an extraordinary size, which were preserved for some time by one Mr. Hamilton, vicar of Alstonfield; and I was informed of the like dugg up at Mare, in the foundation of the tower; but these being buried again, or otherwise disposed of before I came there, I can say little to them. Yet that sometimes men are produced of unusual statures as well in excess as defect, I received a certain proof from Mr. William Feak, alderman of Stafford, who gave me the jaw-bone of a man or woman, with a tooth yet remaining in it, near double the magnitude of those men ordinarily have, which was found in the south chancel of the collegiat church of St. Marie, in Stafford, where now lyes the gravestone of Ann, the wife of Humphry Perry; which is enough to shew that mankind is no more abated in stature than it is in age, the world still affording us a Goliath now and then as well as of old."



The skull of a giant found in Macedonia in September, 1691, held two hundred and ten pounds of corn. In the *Journal des Savans* of the year 1692 is a letter from P. Gentil, stating that a body measuring seventeen feet four inches long had been discovered in a tomb near Angers. This body's arms and legs were entwined by a number of smaller bodies, apparently the children of the giant. In the same neighbourhood were many tombs of a similar mode of construction, each of which contained a body averaging on the whole from ten to fourteen feet in length. Valence, in Dauphiné, possessed the bones of the giant Bueart, the tyrant of the Vivarais, who was slain by an arrow by the Count de Cabillon, his vassal. The Dominicans had a part of the shin-bone, with the articulation of the knee, and his figure painted in fresco, with an inscription stating that this giant was twenty-two feet and a half high, and that his bones were found in 1705, near the banks of the Merderi, a little river at the foot of the mountain of Crussol, upon which tradition says the giant dwelt.

In 1701 some large bones were found at Wrabness, near Harwich, in Essex; and Camden says that in the times of Richard II. and Elizabeth, large teeth and bones of extraordinary bulk, which were accounted to have belonged to giants, were found at the eastern promontory of the same county, meaning probably at Walton.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* of 1714 is an account of observations made in New England, in

1712, by Dr. Mather, who inclined to the opinion that there had been in the antediluvian world men of very prodigious stature, in consequence of the finding of bones and teeth of great size, which he judged to be human, in Albany. He describes several huge teeth, particularly a grinder weighing four pounds and three-quarters, and a broad, flat fore-tooth, four fingers in breadth; also a bone, supposed to be a thigh-bone, seventeen feet long, which, with the others, crumbled to pieces as soon as it was exposed to the air.

We learn from the *Journal Littéraire* of the Abbé Nazari, and Thomas Cornelio relates, that at Triolo, a castle of Upper Calabria, some labourers discovered in a garden an entire skeleton, measuring eighteen Roman feet in length. The head was two feet and a half long; each molar tooth weighed about an ounce and one-third, and each of the other teeth weighed upwards of three quarters of an ounce.

Heetor Boëtius, in his *History of Scotland*, states that some bones of a man who, in derision, was styled Little John, and who was fourteen feet high, were still preserved. Platerus, a celebrated physician, asserts that at Lucerne, in Switzerland, he saw the skeleton of a man seventeen feet in length, which had been found in the sixteenth century.

The *Annual Register* for 1765 says that at a little distance from Aneona was to be seen an ancient temple called the Great Church, fifteen paces from which was a large oak, commonly called the

Giant's Oak. In digging there lately about this tree an entire giant's skeleton of a prodigious size was found. It measured ten Roman palms in length, and its teeth were exactly like those of a large horse. Near this skeleton were discovered eleven other skeletons, all nearly of the same size.

Pilkington, in his *View of Derbyshire*, says that in opening a barrow near Chelmorton, in that county, in 1782, bones which were uncommonly large were found; and it was imagined that the persons to whom they had belonged must have been at least seven feet high. Glover, in his *Derbyshire*, says that in digging the foundation of buildings in the neighbourhood of the King's Head inn, Derby, the site of the ancient priory of St. James, originally a small cell or chapel, founded in the Saxon era, a stone coffin was discovered, several years before he wrote, containing a body of prodigious size. At Doward Hill, in Whitehureh, Herefordshire, some men who were digging found a cavity which seemed to have been arched over, and in it a human skeleton, which appeared to have been more than double the stature of the tallest man now known.

In a vault under the church of Hythe, Kent, has long been preserved a huge pile of several thousand skulls, and arm, leg, and thigh bones, some of which are very large, and are said to be the remains of the Danes and Britons who were killed in a battle near the place. One of the thigh-bones must have belonged to a being nearly seven feet high. At the

bone-house at Ripon Cathedral is a brightly-polished femur or thigh-bone, measuring in length twenty-one inches and a half, which could have belonged only to a man not less than seven feet two or three inches in height. In Bateman's *Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave-hills* are mentioned many instances of thigh-bones of great length having been found. An Italian journal mentions that in July, 1812, the skeleton of a man ten feet three inches long was dug up in the valley of Mazara, in Sicily, where human skeletons of gigantic size had been theretofore found.

Dr. Tytler states, in the *Calcutta Mirror* for March 23d, 1820, that in the bed of a river near Russun he found the fossil remains of the first joint of a human finger, twice the size of the similar joint of an ordinary man, whence the doctor argues that the subject must have been twelve feet high.

The general belief in men of enormous stature no doubt in part arose from the discovery in the earth of the bones and fossil remains of extinct huge quadrupeds and fish. Sir Hans Sloane, Cuvier, and other men of science, have by comparative anatomy exploded the ancient errors, and proved that these colossal osteological remnants were not human. Sloane had the vertebra of a whale which was dug up in England sent to him as a portion of a giant's backbone; but he discovered it to be a part of a sea monster. When men of science expressed opinions against the so-called human remains, and classed

them with mammoths, megatheriums, mastodons, and whales, they were regarded as mere hereties and contradictors of the Bible. We cannot much wonder at the mistakes of the early philosophers in this respect when we remember that Theophrastus, one of the earliest of them, and who much devoted himself to the study of nature, believed, as Pliny tells us, that bones were a sort of mineral production which originated and grew in the earth. Although in many instances the large bones which have been reputed to be human were not so in fact, it is highly probable that some which were moderately great, and particularly such as were found in ancient tumuli, did belong to men of tall stature, and exceptionally to giants.

Various spots in England and elsewhere bear the names of giants' graves, giants' caves, and the like; but in most instances the places contain remains or indications of the ancient Britons, whose most stupendous and most early works were in former days ascribed by the vulgar people of England and Wales to giants, who were assumed to be the primeval workers and early conquerors. Thus, Stonehenge, the results of Druidical labours, was called Chorea Gigantum, or the Giants' Dance, by old monkish writers. Geoffrey of Monmouth, in his *British History*, says that a structure of stones which none of that age could raise without a profound knowledge of the mechanical arts was said to have been brought by the giants of old from the farthest coast of Africa, and placed at Killarus in Ireland, while they in-



habited that country. About the year 489, these stones were removed from Ireland by Merlin, a legendary prophet of ancient days, to Salisbury Plain, in Britain, where they were called the Giants' Dance. The *Chronicles* of Wavrin, relating the same story, tell us that in early times a Giants' Circle, composed of stones, on a mountain of Kिलareth, in Ireland, and of marvellous magnitude, was unsuccessfully endeavoured to be moved by the Britons; but Merlin moved it easily, and so constructed Stonehenge.

A mount in Penrith churchyard, Cumberland, is called the Giant's Grave, near which are two circular stone pillars, about four yards in height, and five yards distant from each other. Two stories are told of these stones. One, celebrated in a ballad which is to be found in Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*, being that Torquin refusing to obey the summons of King Arthur, to appear at his court to answer for ravages which he daily committed, Sir Lancelot du Lake was despatched to bring him by force. A battle ensued, in which Torquin fell, and he was buried between these pillars. The other story states that they were set up in memory of one Sir Owen Cæsarius, knight, who lived in these parts, and killed in the forest of Inglewood wild boars, which much infested the country. He was buried here, says the legend, and was of such prodigious stature as to reach from one pillar to the other. Both stories are of course mythical, but they obtained much local credit among the vulgar inhabitants. The stones were

no doubt mere marks of sepulchral distinction to some British or Danish man of note, and the mound near which they stand was a monumental barrow. Early tumuli are well known to have far exceeded in size the proportions of the persons buried therein. In Penrith churchyard, about thirteen yards distant from the mount, is a single pillar or ancient cross, six feet high, called the Giant's Thumb; and at Little Salkeld, near Penrith, is a Druid's temple, called Long Meg and her Daughters.\*

Near Norden-hill, in Dorsetshire, is a lengthy mound which is popularly called the Giant's Grave; and very near to it are two large stones which have probably rolled down from the beds of rock on the side, or from the chalk hill above. A story, popular in the neighbourhood, says that two giants were once standing on Norden-hill and contending for the mastery as to which of them should hurl the longer distance, the direction being across the valley towards Hanging-hill. He whose stone fell short was so mortified at the failure that he died of vexation, and was buried beneath the mound which has since been known as the Giant's Grave. Pitching rocks across an arm of the sea by way of trying each other's strength was a common amusement of the northern giants. A large stone near Dublin was supposed to have been

"Left by the giants of old who play'd quoits,  
When their game they forsook."

\* See page 88.

Similar legends are often attached to blocks of stone which are found "strewn as it were by Titans in some antediluvian game of knuckle-down, when the alley-taws were lumps of rock as big as that with which Polyphemus slew Acis."

In Furness, North Lancashire, near two barrows on Heathwaite, are two small stone circles, probably of the Druid era, which are called giants' graves, and which on being excavated, about 1842, were found to contain the bones of men, covered with a flat stone. There is a tradition among the old inhabitants that giants formerly lived at the place, and were buried there. The last of the race is said to have been shot by an arrow upon the adjacent hill of Blawithknott. At Arncliffe, in Yorkshire, are many ancient places called giants' graves, which are probably Danish. Dr. Bruce, in his *Wallet Book of the Roman Wall*, says that to the west of a farm-house at Rutchester, near Heddon-on-the-Wall, in Northumberland, on the brow of the hill, a trough-like excavation has been made in the solid rock. Its use is not known; but it was once popularly called the Giant's Grave.

Ray, writing in 1670, tells us of a giant's grave in Leicestershire. The story, as told by Peck, runs that in the neighbourhood of Mountsorrel a giant or devil named Bell once in a merry vein took three prodigious leaps, which are thus described: At a place, thence ever after called Mountsorrel, he mounted the sorrel horse, and leaped a mile to a

place from it since named Oneleap, now corrupted to Wanlip; thence he leaped another mile, to a village called Burstall, from the bursting of both himself and his horse. The third leap was also a mile; but the violence of the exertion and shock killed him, and he was there buried; and the place has ever since been denominated Bell's Grave, or Bell-Grave. "He leaps like a Bell giant or devil of Mountsorrel," afterwards became a local proverb, which was intended to ridicule those who dealt in the marvellous.

Near Clayonagh and Killesher, in Ireland, is a long cromlech, or group of stones, called the Giant's Grave. It originally had a chamber at each end, connected by a longer one in the centre. A height on the Adriatic shore of the Bosphorus, much frequented by holiday parties, is called the Giant's Grave. Byron says in his *Don Juan*:

" 'Tis a grand sight from off the Giant's Grave  
To watch the progress of those rolling seas  
Between the Bosphorus, as they lash and lave  
Europe and Asia."

At Uleybury, in Gloucestershire, is a remarkable place of primeval sepulchre, called the Giant's Chamber. The ruined residence of a giant was pointed out not many years ago at West Charlton, on the North Tynce. It encompassed an acre of ground, with strong walls built of stones four feet thick. Its size, strength, and antiquity, in the absence of any exact knowledge of its history, induced the credulous people living in its vicinity to believe that it had been

the habitation of some mighty giant in the old days. Between Passage and Cork are great masses of rock piled one above another against the cliff of Carrigmahon, which are called the Giant's Stairs. They are, says Croker, suited only to those who have legs of sufficient length to stride over a middle-sized house, or to enable them to clear the space of a mile in a hop, step, and jump. Both these feats the giant Maemahon was said to have performed in the days of Finnian glory; and the common tradition of the country placed his dwelling within the cliff up the side of which the stairs led. Various legends are told of this giant in Ireland.

At Luckington, in North Wilts, adjoining Badminton Park, was a long barrow called the Giant's Cave, in which were discovered, in 1646, five or six small sepulchres or kistvaens, about eleven feet high, seven or eight feet broad, floored, lined, and roofed with great stones. These caves have been several times opened, but nothing of importance was found in them. A cavity near Edenhall, by Penrith, is called the Giant's Cave. Near it is a chasm in a rock, called the Maiden's Step, from a traditional account of the escape of a beautiful virgin from Torquin, the giant, who, after exercising upon all occasions every kind of brutality and depredation within his reach, retired to the cave, his stronghold. A giant's cave at Clifton, near Bristol, is so called from some fabulous tradition.

Between Rome and Loretto, on the summit of a



hill, are some supposititious monuments of an ancient giant called Orlando; and among them are a huge stone which is said to have been his chair, and a cavern in which he is said to have lived.

The *London Magazine* for 1791 relates, apropos of a giant's cave in Cornwall, that, "in some parts of the North of England it has been the custom, from time immemorial, for the lads and lasses of the neighbouring villages to collect together at springs or rivers, on some Sunday in May, to drink sugar and water, where the lasses give the treat. This is called Sugar-and-Water Sunday. They afterwards adjourn to the public-house, and the lads return the compliment in cakes, ale, punch, &c., and a vast concourse of both sexes always assemble in the Giant's Cave on the third Sunday in May for this purpose."

A mole or quay projecting from the base of a steep promontory some hundred feet into the sea, on the coast of Ireland, and formed of perpendicular pillars of basalt, which stand in contact with each other, is called the Giant's Causeway; resembling which are two other giant's causeways in the Venetian state in Italy, and another near Padua.

The vast fortification called Pen-y-Gair, at Llan-derfell, in Merionethshire, is said by the neighbouring inhabitants to have been made by giants; and the like fabulous tradition occurs in many other places where similar works remain.

The figure of a giant is cut on the side of a steep hill near Cern, in Dorsetshire. By some it is sup-

posed to have been standing above one thousand years, and to have been formed and worshipped by the ancient Britons. It is one hundred and eighty feet in length, forty-four feet in breadth at the shoulders, and it carries a club one hundred and twenty feet long. This giant is represented in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1764. Near Wilmington, in Sussex, and on the side of the downs, is the so-called Long Man of Wilmington, a rude figure two hundred and forty feet in length, holding a staff in either hand. It has not been "scoured" for many years, and is invisible on the spot, but is easily distinguishable at a distance when the light falls on it at a particular angle. This figure is near the site of a building which was formerly a religious house, and it may have been the work of its inmates. Two giants, called Gog and Magog, and holding clubs, were cut in the earth at the Hawe at Plymouth; and upon one of two Cambridgeshire chalk hills, at one time called Gogmagog's hills, was cut a gigantic human figure, which was supposed to represent Atlas, Gogmagog's cousin, by whom the eminences were set up. Aubrey says: "The Saxon conquerors—no searchers into antiquity—ascribed works great and strange to the devil, as the Devil's Ditch, Devil's Arrows, Gogmagog Hill, &c., or to giants, and handed down to us only fables."

## CHAPTER III.

Civic Giants—Corinæus and Gogmagog—Legend of—Giant's Leap—Giants in London Pageants—Gog and Magog in Guildhall—Midsummer Shows and Giants—Chester Giants—Giants in the Low Countries—Antigon, the Giant of Antwerp—Padua Giants—Valencia Giants—Types of Municipal Power—Giants at Dunkirk and Douai—Giant at Kenilworth Castle—at Woodford—Giants in Folk-lore and Fiction—Jack the Giant-killer—Teutonic Giants—Thor—Skrimmer—Hindú Legends—Woglog—Vishnu—Indian Giants—King Arthur—Giant of Mount St. Michael—Cornish Giants—Giants of Trecrobben—Ghosts of Giants—Holiburn of the Cairn—Tom and the Giant Blunderbuss—Bolster—Giant of Goran—Wrath—Jack the Tinkeard—Irish Giants—Fingall—Trick on a Scotch Giant—Legend of Giant Women—Grana—Rock of the Candle.

GIANTS have been, from very early times, most popular adjuncts to civic displays and pageants, both in England and on the Continent; the reason being, that they are intimately connected with the old mythic histories of the foundation of cities. The giants of the City of London, Gog and Magog, are associated with a fabulous account of Corinæus and Gogmagog, related by Geoffrey of Monmouth. The story goes that Brutus, after the destruction of Troy, collected a band of Trojans, and sailed in search of adventures. He joined with Corinæus, a gigantic man and a prodigy of valour, and they together landed in Albion, where

“ Those mightic people borne of giants' brood  
That did possesse this ocean-bounded land,

They did subdue, who oft in battell stood  
 'Gainst them in field, untill by force of hand  
 They were made subject unto Brute's command.

\* \* \* \* \*

Save certain giants, whom they did pursue,  
 Which straight to caves in mountains did them get."

Brutus then divided the land between his followers and Corinæus, one portion being called Britain, and the other Cornwall, which latter he gave to Corinæus

"For his service done,  
 And for because from giants he it won."

On an occasion when Brutus was holding a festival on the sea-coast of Cornwall, a band of giants made their appearance and disturbed the festivities. The Trojans, however, fought a desperate battle against the monsters, all of whom, except Geomagog, or Gogmagog, they destroyed. The survivor was the hugest of all, he being twelve cubits in height, and able to pull up trees by their roots as weeds. He was reserved that Corinæus might match his strength against him in single combat. The giant, however, in a wrestle broke three of Corinæus's ribs, which injury so enraged him that he bore the giant to a high rock, and threw him headlong into the sea. The spot was afterwards known as Lam or Lan Goe-magot, or the Giant's Leap. The separate names of Gog and Magog are comparatively modern, and were formed by breaking one name into two; and long after Brutus founded London they were applied to two huge figures which were introduced into that city's pageantry, and are now represented by large

wooden figures in the Guildhall. The story has been told in detail by several London historians, and notably by Hone and Fairholt, but it is too long for us to reproduce here; we can therefore give only a summary of it.

In 1415, when Henry V. made his triumphal entry into London, after the victory of Agincourt, a male and a female giant stood at the Southwark entrance-gate of London Bridge, the male bearing the city keys, as if he were the porter of the city. In 1432, when Henry VI. entered London the same way, a mighty giant awaited him as his champion at the same place. He carried a drawn sword, and by his side was an inscription commencing:

“All those that be enemies to the king  
I shall them clothe with confusion.”

In 1554, when Philip and Mary made their public entry into London, the images of Gogmagog and Corinæus, holding between them some Latin verses, were exhibited on London Bridge; and upon the occasion of the arrival of Queen Elizabeth at Temple Bar, upon her coronation in 1558, the same giants were seen holding above the gate a Latin inscription. In 1685, on the coronation of James II., the two city giants were represented upon a raft on the Thames, and were filled with combustibles, which were ignited during the display.

Before the fire of London in 1666, there were two wickerwork and pasteboard giants in Guildhall, which were exhibited in Cheapside upon the occasion



of the restoration of Charles II., and were also carried in the Lord Mayor's annual show. But by reason of their age, and the damage done to them by vermin, they were replaced about 1708 by the present carved wooden figures, each of which is about fourteen feet in height. They are commonly called Gog and Magog; but antiquaries tell us that the oldest figure represents Gogmagog, and the younger Corinaeus. Until 1815, when they were repaired, they stood, with the old clock and a balcony between them, over the stairs leading from the hall to the courts of law and the council chamber; hence arose the popular saying: "When the giants hear the clock strike twelve they come down to dinner." They now stand one on each side of the window at the western end of the hall.

In the churchwardens' accounts of St. Andrew Hubbard's parish, London, for the years 1533-1535, are the following items, alluding probably to some parochial Midsummer pageant: "Receyvyd for the Jeyantt, xix*l*," and "Receyvyd for the Jeyantt, ijs. viij*l*." Stow tells us that upon the setting of the nightly watch in London, on St. John's eve, the mayor was attended by his giant, and the sheriffs also had their giants, which were armed, and marched as if they were alive. Puttenham, in his *Arte of English Poesie*, 1589, writing of the Midsummer pageants in London, says: "Where, to make the people wonder, are set forth great and uglye gyants, marching as if they were alive, and armed at all

points; but within they are stuffed full of browne paper and tow, which the shrewd boyes, under peering, do quite fully discover and turne to a greate derision." Marston, in his comedy of the *Dutch Courtezan*, acted in 1605, refers to "the gyant's stilts that stalks before my Lord Mayor's pageants."

It was customary at Burford, in Oxfordshire, annually on Midsummer eve to carry the picture or image of a giant up and down the town in a pageant. By an ordinance of the corporation of Chester, dated in 1564, the pageant for the setting of the watch on St. John's eve was directed to consist of, among other things, four giants, according to ancient custom. Another manuscript says that the mayor, in 1599, from religious motives caused the giants used in the midsummer show "to be broken, and not to goe the devil in his feathers;" but in 1601 another mayor revived the giants in that pageant. In the time of the Commonwealth the show was discontinued, and the giants were destroyed. However, on the restoration of Charles II. the citizens of Chester replaced them; and the estimate of the cost of four great giants was five pounds each, and of four men to carry them two shillings and sixpence a-piecc. The materials for making the giants were deal-boards, nails, pasteboard, scaleboard, paper, buckram, size-cloth, and old sheets for their bodies, sleeves, and shirts, which were coloured; also tinsel, tinfoil, gold, and silver leaf, and different sorts of colours. A pair of old sheets covered the father and

mother giants, and three yards of buckram were provided for the mother's and daughter's hoods. A desire to preserve the figures may be inferred from an entry in the charges of one shilling and fourpence for arsenic to put in the paste to save them from being eaten by the rats.

The pasteboard giants of Antwerp, Douai, Ath, Lille, and other cities in the Low Countries, are from twenty to thirty feet in height, and are still carried in great public processions. The arms of Antwerp Castle are surmounted by two cut-off hands, about which the following legend has been transmitted from generation to generation for ages. About fifty-four years before Christ, as two lovers were floating on a raft on the river Scheldt, the giant Antigon rose out of the water, and, stopping the vessel, asked in a voice of thunder for three bullocks. Failing to get them, he pressed between two of his fingers the hand of Atvix, the male lover, so tightly that it fell off on to the raft. The giant took it up and threw it into the river. With his remaining hand Atvix thrust his sword into the arm of the giant, who then ground the life out of Atvix's body between his hands. The lady in despair cast herself into the river, and was drowned.

At Padua, in Italy, the procession of the festival of St. Anthony was anciently preceded by giants moved by men hidden within their bodies. They were, however, suppressed for about thirty years in the last century, and again revived in 1798. Laborde,

writing in 1809, of Valeneia, tells us that no procession of however little importance took place without being preceded by eight statues of giants of a prodigious height. Four of them represented the four quarters of the world, and the other four their husbands. Their heads were made of pasteboard, and of an enormous size, frizzed and dressed in the fashion. The wooden-framed bodies were dressed in coats or robes and various ornaments, altered according to the prevailing fashions. Men, covered with drapery falling on the ground, carried them at the head of the procession, making them dance, jump, bow, turn, and twist about. The people paid more attention to these gesticulations than to the religious ceremony which followed them. The existence of the giants was deemed of sufficient importance to require attention as to the means of perpetuating them; consequently there was a considerable foundation in Valeneia for their support. They had a house belonging to them, where they were deposited. Two benefices were particularly founded in honour of them; and it was the duty of the ecclesiasties who possessed these benefices to take care of them and of their ornaments, particular revenues being assigned for the expense of their toilettes.

In the time of the Emperor Otho II., about the year 980, the people of Magdeburg, in gratitude to that prince, erected a colossal statue to him in their court of judgment. A similar plan was adopted by other continental cities; and in almost all the imperial

towns of Germany a huge figure is erected in the law-courts, and is regarded as a type of municipal power.

Dr. Milner, in his *History of Winchester*, 1798, in reference to the gigantic statue which enclosed a number of human victims, and was in use among the ancient Gauls, says that at Dunkirk and Douai, where, as also at other places, the rites in question prevailed, it had been an immemorial custom, on a certain holiday in the year, to build up an immense figure of basket-work and canvas, to the height of forty or fifty feet, which, when properly painted and dressed, represented a huge giant, and also contained within it a number of living men, who raised the same and caused it to move from place to place. The popular tradition was that this figure represented a certain pagan giant, who used to devour the inhabitants of these places until he was killed by the patron saint of the same.

Giants appear not only to have figured in civic displays as types of power and protection, but also to have been regarded as the champions of private mansions on occasions of grand state in the days of primitive romance. They were sometimes represented as huge green men of savage appearance, either in pasteboard or wood. Such a savage of the forests, according to Lanelham, "with an oaken plant plucked up by the roots in his hand, himself all foregrown in moss and ivy," welcomed Queen Elizabeth on her return from the chase to Kenilworth Castle in



1575. At Grove House, Woodford, in Essex, a mansion built certainly as early as 1580, and demolished in 1832, were two miniature representations of these domestic giants, earved out of solid oak, two feet six inehes high, and standing on the pediments with which the balusters of the stairease were connected. So much were these relies of household antiquities valued that in all the leases of the mansion it was stipulated that they should not be removed; and they remained as the *lares familiares* of the house until the time of its demolition. One of them is engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1833.

Giants have always been great favourites with fiction-writers, and they live in the folk-lore of every country. We have already noticed how much they oecupied the attention of the aneient authors; and some of the most popular works in modern literature have had for their heroes these fabulous ereations. Spenser, in his *Faery Queene*, tells us of

“ An hideous giant, horrible and hie,  
That with his talnesse seem'd to threat the skie.”

Rabelais invented a giant named Gargantua. Bunyan found the Giant Despair very useful in his story. Gulliver would not have enthralled us except for his adventures with giants and dwarfs. And the world of romanee would be dull without Blunderbuss, Cormoran, Trapsaca, Trandello, Skrimmer, King Arthur, Fingall, and other monsters of like size, skill, and ferocity.

The earliest form of the aneient popular nursery

story of Jack the Giant-killer in western lore is probably that of Thor and the giant Skrimmer in the *Edda* of Snorro. Both in this work and in *Xiph-line* giants in the air and walking on the earth occur. It is probable that most of such domestic narrative fictions are of Teutonic origin. At one time the great giganticide is Thor; at another he robes himself in the coat which renders him invisible, and which is the ancient German *Nebel-kappe*, or cloud-cloak, fabled to belong to King Alberich and the other dwarfs of Teutonic romance, who clad therein became invisible; and at another time he wears the shoes of swiftness in which Loke escaped from Valhalla.

Jack's history, according to the common version, tells us that he, having got a little money, travelled into Flintshire, and came to a large house in a lonesome place. By reason of his present necessity, he took courage to knock at the gate, when, to his amazement, there came forth a monstrous giant with two heads, yet he did not seem so fiery as some former giants, for he was a Welsh giant. This monster was rendered less fiery than he would naturally have been in consequence of his breakfasting on a great bowl of hasty-pudding. Jack was received into the giant's habitation, and in due course retired to bed. But overhearing his entertainer threaten his life, Jack put a billet into the bed in the stead of himself. The deceived giant with a club (an ancient weapon of which giants were very fond,

but with which, however, they were often killed) struck the billet, and Jack escaped. A parallel to this adventure is found in the device practised by the giant Skrimmer when he and Thor visited the Castle of Utgaard. Skrimmer outwitted the other by placing an immense rock on the couch whereon Thor supposed he was sleeping, and which received the blows of a hammer in his stead.

The words used by the giant on discovering Jack, "Fe fi fo fum, I smell the blood of a man," are similar in effect to a couplet spoken by a giantess in a Mohammedan story, called Sunebal and the Ogress. The Hindús tell a story of Beeman, one of the five Pandoos, an Eastern prototype of our Jack, and of his adventures in killing the rachsas or giants. The antiquity of the legend may be guessed when we remember that the Pandoos are first mentioned in the Mahabharata, written at least two hundred and forty years before Christ. The earliest form of the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk is found also in Edda, where the ash Yghrasi is said to have reached to heaven. The story of Jack the Giant-killer was printed certainly as early as 1711, if not before, antecedent to which time it was only an oral legend that passed from generation to generation. Strutt says that giants, together with dragons and necromancers, were created by the authors of romance for the sole purpose of displaying the prowess of their heroes, whose business it was to destroy them. What would Jack have been without vanquishable giants?

We end his story by giving to our readers the advice which Hannah More gave in "An Heroic Epistle," written on the blank leaves of *Mother Bunch's Tales*:

"Then leave your Robertsons and Bryants  
For Jack the murderer of giants ;  
Since all mythology profane  
Is quite as doubtful, quite as vain."

The giant Woglog was a mythic hero, of whom, in the account of his trying to seize Tommy Trip the student, Bewick gives a vignette in a child's book published in 1779.

Apropos of our reference above to the Hindú giants we may add that Durga or Doorga, an Indian goddess, is represented with ten arms. In one hand she holds a spear, with which she is piercing the giant Muhisha; in another hand she holds a sword, and in a third the hair of the giant and the tail of a serpent which is twined round him. According to Hindú legend, Wischnu, the water-god, confines in a subaqueous prison a race of giants and rebellious spirits. The Brahmins say that Vishnu, the preserver of the universe, under the form of a boar, tore the entrails of the giant Erenniachessen, by whom the earth had been sunk in the abyss of Djole, from which he delivered it. Vishnu is sometimes represented as Balla Ráma, a hero who delivered the earth from giants. There is a tradition that the first man was created on the top of a high mountain in Ceylon, and there is the shape of a

man's foot, about six feet in length, cut out of the rock, which is pretended to be the identical print of his foot. Pomponius Mela, a Spaniard, who flourished about the year of the Christian era, says certain Indian tribes were of enormous stature, and mounted their elephants as we do our horses. In an Indian canonical work called *Bagavadam*, or a system of divine learning, published about 1788, is a discourse on giants.

King Arthur was, according to old legendary story, both a giant and a conqueror of giants. Dr. Forman, in a curious paper on such monsters, says: "King Arthur was fifteen foote longe in the prime of his yers" (Ms. Ashmole); and he also tells us of a Sir Gawaine, who was twelve feet and a half in height; and of an apocryphal queen, one Guiniver, Gaynore, Gaynour, or Gwennor, who was twelve feet long. Robinson's translation of *Leland*, 1582, contains an account of the pretended moving of the bones of Arthur and his queen, by which the world was called upon to believe that they were of huge stature. The *Chronicles of Great Britain*, written by John de Wavrin, between the years 1445 and 1455, tell us that while Arthur was sojourning in his tents on the sea-shore of Britain tidings came to him that a giant of wonderful size had come into the country from Spain, and carried off Helen, whom he had taken to the top of a mountain called St. Michael, in Cornwall, and that numerous knights had followed him in order to recover



the damsel; but they had been defeated. Some of them had been hurled down from the mountain by the giant, and others had been devoured by him. Arthur determined to fight the monster, and he accordingly climbed the mountain on which he lived. He found the inhuman giant warming himself by a fire, and eating men whole. The cannibal seized a great iron club, with which he struck a blow at Arthur, who received it on his shield, and in return aimed at the giant's head with his sword, and drew blood. In the ensuing fight Arthur slew the giant, and cut off his head.

A similar account of this affair is told in the *Eulogium Historiarum*, which also tells us of the birth of giants before the Deluge. Previously to the battle by Arthur for the succour of Helen on Mount St. Michael he had, according to the *Chronicles of Wavrin*, killed the giant Ritho in the mountain of Arno, where he had challenged him to fight. Ritho had defeated and slaughtered so many powerful kings that he had made a garment of their beards, in which he was wont to wrap himself at great festivals. Laneham, in his contemporary account of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Kenilworth Castle in 1575, after stating that over the first gate of the castle stood six gigantic figures eight feet high, adds that "by this dumb-show it was meant that in the daies of King Arthur men were of that stature, so that the castle of Kenelworth should seem still to be kept by King Arthur's heirs and their servants."

Hunt, in his *Popular Romances of the West of England*, tells us that the traditions of giants are numerous in Cornwall. The giants of Treerobben dwelt in a castle on a hill which rises in view of St. Michael's Mount, and close to Lelant. On the flat rocks inside the castle they sacrificed their victims. In the days of the wars and troubles, when their race was dying out, they buried their treasures in the granite caverns of this hill, where they still remain, guarded by the fairies. Among the Cornish fairies are the Spriggans, the ghosts of the giants, who guard hidden wealth. In several parts of Cornwall there still exist huge rocks, said to have been used by the giants when hurling or playing at athletic games. The Titans of Treerobben and St. Michael's Mount often met to play at "bob-buttons." The throw was generally made from Treerobben Hill, and the mount was the "bob," on which huge slabs of rock served for the buttons.

Holiburn of the Cairn was a giant, who is said to have married a farmer's daughter. Once, when watching some Cornishmen hurling, he was so pleased at the game made by a young peasant, that in mere good-nature he killed him by patting him on the head. The giant of Trebiggan is said to have dined every day on children, whom he fried on a flat rock outside his cave. His arms were so long that he would snatch the sailors from ships passing by the Land's End; and sometimes, after having had his fun, replace them again.

In the history of Tom and the giant Blunderbuss we are told that Tom was a lazy young giant, living near Hayle, and his unwieldy rival resided in a castle near St. Ives. Tom, in driving a wagon full of beer from market, trespassed on the territory of the giant, who attacked him with his elub—a young elm-tree. Tom fought him with a wheel and an axle-tree, and eventually ran him through the body with the pole. As a reward for his fair fighting and courage, the giant left Tom all the gold, copper, and tin in his castle. This generous giant figured for centuries in the old guise-dances at Cornish festivals.

The giant Bolster, another hero, lived on St. Agnes Beacon Hill, and the earth-work near Trevenaunce Porth still bears his name. He could stand with one foot on St. Agnes Beacon, and the other on Carn Brea Hills, six miles apart. He employed his wife in carrying and removing blocks of granite from hill to hill. He fell in love with St. Agnes, who, weary of his importunities, offered to marry him if he would fill a hole in the cliff at Chapel Porth with his blood; but as the hole opened into the sea, unknown to the giant, he fell a victim to his love. The red stain still visible in the cliff shows where the deluge of blood once poured.

The giant of Goran dug the huge intrenchment there, twenty feet broad, and twenty-four feet high, in one night. Being ill, he called in a subtle doctor;

but he grew so weak at last, that the medical man kicked him over the cliff, and killed him. The promontory is still called the Dodman or the Deadman. The Cupboard, a curious gorge on the coast near Portwreath, was once the cavern of the giant Wrath, who waited there for wrecks and drifts. Wading out to sea, he used to tie the boats to his girdle, walk back to his den, and there devour the fishermen.

Jack the Tinkeard figures largely in the giant stories. He was a friend of that Tom who slew Blunderbuss, and was remarkable for a bull's-hide coat, which was as tough as iron. He thrashed Tom at singlestick, and taught him to draw a bow with his toes, so as to kill hares and kids that were almost out of sight. Jack drove the enchanter Pengerswick out of his castle, and dug a pit for a vicious old giant at Morva, into which Jack's enemy fell, and broke his neck.

Among legendary Irish giants we have the great Fingall, or Fuen-vic-Couil, and Ossian, or Ussheen, who was converted by St. Patrick to Christianity. Of both of these mythical giants numerous stories are told. Mr. F. R. Davies relates in *Notes and Queries* that when Fingall was young he fell into the hands of a giant, and was compelled to serve him for seven years, during which time the giant was fishing for the salmon which had the property of giving to the person who ate the first piece of it the gift of prophecy. At length, when the seven

years were past, the giant caught this fish, and gave it to Fingall to roast, with threats of instant destruction if he allowed any accident to happen to it. Fingall hung the fish before the fire by a string, but forgot to turn it, so that a blister rose on the side of it. Terrified at the probable consequences of his carelessness, he attempted to press down the blister with his thumb, and feeling the smart caused by the burning fish, he put his injured member into his mouth. A morsel of the fish adhered to his thumb, and immediately he received the knowledge for which the giant had long toiled in vain. Knowing that his master would kill him if he remained, he fled; but was soon pursued by the vengeance-breathing giant. The chase was long, but whenever Fingall was in danger of being caught, his thumb used to pain him; and on putting it into his mouth he always obtained knowledge how to escape, until at last he succeeded in putting out the giant's eyes and killing him; and always afterwards, when in difficulty or danger, his thumb used to smart, and on putting it into his mouth he was informed how to escape.

Afterwards, a Scottish giant, who had heard of Fingall's fame, determined to go and see which of them was the stronger. Fingall was informed by his thumb of this fact, and was much discomfited by it. However, his wife Oonagh (your legendary giant not infrequently falls into love's snares,

“ And meekest damsels find it facile  
To storm a giant's moated castle”),



got him out of the difficulty by the following expedient. She first baked some large cakes of bread, putting into the largest the griddle or iron-plate used in the process. She then boiled several gallons of milk, and made whey of it, and collected the curd into a mass. She then dressed her husband as a baby, and put him into a cradle. By this time the Scotch giant had arrived, and asked to see Fingall. Oonagh in reply said her husband was out, and requested the visitor to wait until he should return. She then placed the bread and whey before the giant, taking care to give him the cake which had the griddle in it, and serving the whey in a huge vessel. The giant made an attempt to eat this food, but finding he could not, he said he was not hungry. He then asked Oonagh what was her husband's favourite feat of strength. She said he sometimes amused himself by squeezing water out of a stone lying near the door. The giant thereupon took it up and pressed it until the blood started from his fingers. Oonagh laughingly said a child could do this feat, at the same time handing her husband a lump of curds, which he squeezed, and some drops of whey fell from it. Oonagh kissed her pseudo baby, and, breaking off a bit of bread, gave it to him to eat. The amazed giant asked whether the child could eat such hard bread. Oonagh thereupon persuaded him to put his finger in its mouth to feel its teeth, and as soon as he did so Fingall bit it off. The giant, seeing that Fingall's child was so strong,

did not wait for its father's return, but decamped forthwith.

In the eleventh century Sigurd, Earl of the Orkney Islands, went with a fleet of ships, and a considerable body of troops, into Ireland, to the assistance of Sygtryg with the silken beard, who was then making war on his father-in-law, Brian king of Dublin. The earl and all his forces were cut to pieces, and Sygtryg was in danger of a total defeat; but the enemy had a greater loss by the death of Brian, who fell in the action. On Christmas-day, the day of the battle, a native of Caithness, in Scotland, saw at a distance a number of persons on horseback riding full speed towards a hill, and seeming to enter into it. Curiosity led him to follow them, until looking through an opening in the rocks he saw twelve gigantic figures resembling women; they were all employed about a loom; and as they wove they sang a dreadful song, when they had finished which they tore the web into twelve pieces, and each taking her portion, six galloped to the north, and as many to the south.

Another of the Irish monsters was the giantess Grana, who dwelt on the rock of Carrigogunnel, and made desolate the surrounding country. She was a frightful hag, and every night she lit a candle in order to lure victims to destruction; hence her dwelling-place was known as the Rock of the Candle. One Regan at length extinguished this fatal light; and the giantess tore up a huge fragment of rock and

flung after him; but it fell harmless, and she was never seen afterwards. The stone, however, remains; it is far taller than the tallest man, the power of forty men could not move it, and deeply imprinted in it are still to be seen the marks of the hag's fingers.

## CHAPTER IV.

Human Height—Comparisons—Early Germans—Changes in Stature of Mankind—Peruvian Giants—Patagonians—First Voyages to Patagonia—Magellan—Pigafetta—Sir Francis Drake—Sir Thomas Cavendish—Turner—Van Noort—Dutch Travellers—French Travellers—Tarrubia—Spanish Travellers—Byron—Wallis—Carteret—Patagonian Skeleton and Archbishop of Lima—Captain Bourne—The Patagonians of this day described—Ladrone Islands—Chiloe—Giant Angling.

VILLERME remarks that human height becomes greater, and the growth takes place more rapidly, other circumstances being equal, in proportion as the country is richer, the comfort more general, houses, clothes, and nourishment better, labour, fatigue, and privation during infancy and youth less ; or, in other words, the circumstances accompanying misery postpone the period of the complete development of the body, and stint human nature. Virey, in the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales*, points to the fact that intense cold and dry heat tend alike to dwarf the population ; a moist temperate climate being better than either. Men living by the sea-coast and in level countries are larger in their stature than the inhabitants of mountainous regions.

The Lapps, Samoïedes, Ostiacks, Koriacks, Kamtchadales, and Esquimaux, are all diminutive. In fact, the natives near the pole are dwarfs compared with the inhabitants of the temperate zone.

The Esquimaux, and the Bushmen—the gipsies of the interior of Africa, as they have been called—are the smallest races of men that we are acquainted with, their average height seldom exceeding four feet or four feet five inches; and from them to the Patagonians we have all the intermediate variations. There is no great difference in the ordinary standard. The most stunted tribes are at least four feet high, and the tallest races of America—the Guayaquilites and the people of Paraguay—do not exceed six feet and a half.

The Poles, Livonians, Danes, Prussians, and English are a little taller than Austrians, Frenchmen, Italians, and Spaniards, owing to their living in more temperate climates. The average height of well-formed Englishmen is about five feet seven inches, being an inch taller than average Belgians, and rather more in excess of average Frenchmen.

Livy and Pliny say that the Germans and Gauls were taller than the Greeks and Romans. The accounts and monuments of antiquity agree that the ancient Germans were distinguished above all other nations by their height and the largeness of their bodies. Columella says, “*Germaniam natura decoravit altissimorum hominum exercitibus*” (Nature has made Germany remarkable for armies of very tall men). Vegetius says, “*Quid adversus Germanorum proceritatem nostra brevitās potuisset?*” (What could our under-sized men have done against the tall Germans?). Hegesippus says, “*Germani magnitudine*



corporum et contemtu mortis eeteris validiores” (The Germans are superior to other nations by the largeness of their bodies and their contempt of death). The truth of these testimonies is confirmed by the armour used in former days, and now preserved in the arsenals of Germany.

Silbermann, a contemporary French writer, concludes that the average height of the human race has remained unchanged since the Chaldean epoeh, four thousand years ago. Pliny says, “in the human race the stature is almost daily becoming less and less;” but it is now a matter of almost certainty, from the remains of antiquity reaching back to the earliest times, that in the old days men were not taller than ourselves. Indeed, there are some reasons for believing that the size of the human race, taken in its whole, rather increases than diminishes; and that the relations by historians of gigantic nations of men have originated in the first impressions of small men when brought into the presence of those of superior stature. The mummies brought from Egypt, which are at least three thousand years old, are no larger than human beings of the present day; and the armour which has been dug out of ancient graves might easily be worn by us. It is plain from the notices which historians have given of giants that they were always rarities, or strange organic mistakes of nature; and we have no reliable accounts of a race of giants ever having existed.

It was long thought that the Patagonians were

men of enormous stature, and the assertions of the old voyagers on the point were positive. For instance, Pigafetta mentions an individual Patagonian, who was so tall that ordinary men hardly reached to his waist. Similar statements are found in the voyages of Byron, Wallis, Carteret, Cook, Forster, and others; but it is now a matter of certainty, from the recent visits to Patagonia, that there is nothing extraordinary in the height of the natives. In old travels they were found to be mighty men, eight, nine, and ten feet high; but now they have diminished into stalwart fellows about six feet in height.

Those who first visited South America saw many things which have greatly diminished in later times. Barbenias was told by the inhabitants of this country that, a deluge having laid Peru under water, the Indians retired to the mountains until the flood should subside; and that when they came down to the plain again they found there men of an enormous stature, who attacked them with great ferocity, killing many, and driving the rest to the caves of the rocks. Having continued in their hiding-places many years, they saw in the air a young man who destroyed the giants by thunderbolts, and thus restored to them the possession of their country. The guides of Barbenias also showed him many marks upon a rock, which they said were impressed by the thunderbolts; and also many bones of an extraordinary size, which they believed to be the remains of the giants. Garcilasso de la Vega, a mendacious writer, in his history of

Peru, relates that, according to a tradition universally received, a number of vessels came to Point St. Helena, with a company of giants on board, of a stature so enormous that the natives of the country were not higher than their knees, that their eyes were as broad as the bottom of a plate, and their limbs proportionately large. When they came ashore they dug deep pits in the rock, and each one of them consumed as much food as would be sufficient for fifty ordinary men. After committing most brutal vices, they were destroyed by divine vengeance. Bones of an amazing size, and fragments of teeth, which if they had been whole must have weighed half a pound, are said to have been found in this country.

So much having been written about the Patagonians, it may be well perhaps for us to add a summary of some of the many accounts given of them. They are first mentioned in the account of a voyage for new discoveries, undertaken by the celebrated Spaniard Magalae, or Magellan, in 1519 or 1520, and chronicled by his historian, the Chevalier Pigafetta. Harris's abridgment of this relation states that the explorers fell in with a country inhabited by a wild sort of people; they were of a prodigious stature, fierce, and barbarous, made a horrible roaring noise more like bulls than human creatures; and yet, with all their mighty bulk, were so nimble and light of foot that none of the Spaniards or Portuguese could overtake them. The head of one of

Magellan's middle-sized men reached only to the waist of one of the giants, and he was proportionately big. Assuming the former man to have been only five feet six inches in height, the Patagonian must have been nine feet high at least; but this is inconsistent with Harris's statement that Magellan gave the people the name of Patagonians because their stature was five eubits, or seven feet six inches. Another writer tells us that the name given to them means 'great feet;' the Spanish *patagon* is a large clumsy foot.

The Patagonians are next mentioned in an account of the voyage of Sir Francis Drake; but their stature does not appear to have been particularly ascertained. By Sir Thomas Cavendish's voyage they were discovered to be very wild and rude creatures, and of a gigantic race; the measure of the foot of one of them being eighteen inches in length, which, reckoning by the usual proportion, would give about seven feet and a half for their stature.

Turner, the naturalist, states that he saw near the river Plata, on the Brazil coast, a race of very gigantic naked savages, one of whom measured twelve feet in height. The statement of Turner is supported by Andreas Thevet, cosmographer to Henry III., king of France and Portugal, who in his *Description of America*, published at Paris in 1575, tells us that he was shown by a Spanish merchant the skeleton of a South American man, then not many years dead,

which he measured, and found to be eleven feet five inches in length; the skull was three feet one inch in circumference, and the leg-bones were three feet four inches long. The subject died in 1559. Knivet says that at Port Desire he measured several dead bodies which had been buried there, and which were from fourteen to sixteen spans high; and he saw tracks in the sand which must have been left by people of nearly the same stature. He also frequently saw at Brazil a Patagonian youth who was thirteen spans in height.

Oliver van Noort, a Dutchman, who visited Patagonia between 1598 and 1601, describes the inhabitants as tall portly men; but a native boy, whom Van Noort captured and brought away in his ship, described some of his countrymen as being ten or twelve feet high. Sebald de Weert, another Dutch traveller, who touched at the Straits of Magellan in 1598, says the savages there were ten or eleven feet in height, and could easily tear up by the roots trees which were a span in diameter. George Spilbergen, in his voyage there, saw men of gigantic stature, and also graves containing bodies of the ordinary size; and some of the savages appeared to be less than six feet high. A commissary on board Jacob le Maire's fleet in 1615 affirmed that he had measured the bones of men in some sepulchres in South America, and that they were between ten and eleven feet long. Nodal and Sir Richard Hawkins say that the Patagonians were a head taller than the inhabitants of



Europe. In 1704 Captains Harrington and Carman, who commanded French vessels, saw giants in Possession Bay several times. Frezier says he was told on the coast of Chili that the Indians living inland were nine feet high. Reaveneau de Lussan says that the natives of Chili were of enormous bulk and stature. Narborough and L'Hermite, on the contrary, say that they were tall, but not gigantic.

P. Joseph Tarrubia, by his *Gianthologia*, published at Madrid in 1761, endeavoured to prove the existence of giants in Patagonia, not only from the concurrent testimony of all antiquity in the old world, but also from Indian antiquities discovered in the new world. The monstrous stature of several of the South American idols, which are affirmed to have been no bigger than the life, and several utensils that from their size could have been used only by giants, are adduced as evidence in confirmation of the stories of the huge height of the people. The author states that he had conversed with several Spaniards who had seen monstrous men as they happened to stray from their wild retreats verging towards the Straits of Magellan; and they were described as being nine or ten feet high, strong in proportion to their size, and surprisingly active. It is also related that the South Americans had a body of soldiers, consisting of about four hundred men, the shortest of whom was not under nine feet high, and the tallest was about eleven feet. Their features were regular, their limbs exactly proportioned, their looks pleasant and

affable, and their speech was clear and sonorous. Their women were not above six feet and a half high, and their children when born were of the usual size of infants.

Byron, in 1764, saw in South America a chief who was not less than seven feet high, and others were nearly as tall. The *Annual Register* for 1768 gives an account of some very tall men seen near the Straits of Magellan in 1764. The writer says: "They are of a copper colour, with long black hair; and some of them are certainly nine feet, if they do not exceed it. The commodore, who is very near six feet, could but just reach the top of one of their heads, which he attempted on tip-toe; and there were several taller than he on whom the experiment was tried. They are prodigious, stout, and as well and proportionably made as ever I saw people in my life . . . . The women, I think, bear much the same proportion to the men as our Europeans do; there was hardly a man there less than eight feet, most of them considerably more; the women, I believe, run from seven and a half to eight."

Dom Pernety's voyage in 1766 to the Falkland Islands, on the coasts of Patagonia, proved that the people there were at least five feet seven inches, French measure, in height. Captain Wallis, in 1766, measured Patagonians, of whom the tallest were six feet seven inches high; but the general stature was from five feet ten inches to six feet. Captain Carte-

ret's account of his voyage to the Straits of Magellan in 1766 tells us that the Patagonians were all from six feet to six feet five inches in height, and a few were six feet seven inches; but none were above that. In 1766 Horace Walpole wrote a humorous piece entitled *An Account of the Giants lately discovered; in a Letter to a Friend in the Country*. The stature of the Patagonians was measured with great accuracy by some Spanish officers in 1785-6, when they found the common height to be from six feet and a half to seven feet, and the tallest man was seven feet one inch and a quarter. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for May 1797 gives us a fancy sketch of a sailor giving a Patagonian woman some biscuit for her child, in which the relative proportions are very striking.

Lord Monboddo, who strenuously contended that a race of giants did exist in Patagonia, relates that a French ship brought from that country a skeleton of one of them, measuring between twelve and thirteen feet long; but the vessel happening to be overtaken by a violent storm, and having the Spanish Archbishop of Lima on board, the ecclesiastical declared that the storm was caused by the bones of the pagan then a part of the cargo, and he insisted on having the skeleton thrown into the sea.

The existence of the tall Patagonians was called in question by Buffon, Sir Hans Sloane, Frazer, and others, in the last century; and they became the theme of a very lively dispute among learned men. The result seems to be that the height of the people

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was much exaggerated; and this fact is further evidenced by the testimony of Captain Bourne, who resided among them about the year 1849. He says:

“In person they are large; on first sight they appear absolutely gigantic. They are taller than any other race I have seen, though it is impossible to give any accurate description. The only standard of measurement I had was my own height, which is about five feet ten inches. I could stand very easily under the arms of many of them, and all the men were at least a head taller than myself; their average height I should think is nearly six and a half feet, and there were specimens that could have been little less than seven feet high. They have broad shoulders, full and well-developed chests, frames muscular and finely proportioned; the whole figure and air making an impression like that which the first view of the sons of Anak is recorded to have made on the children of Israel. They exhibit enormous strength whenever they are sufficiently aroused to shake off their constitutional laziness and exert it. They have large heads, high cheek-bones, like the North-American Indians, whom they also resemble in their complexion, though it is a shade or two darker. Their foreheads are broad but low, the hair covering them nearly to the eyes; eyes full, generally black or of a dark brown, and brilliant, though expressive of but little intelligence. Thick, coarse, and stiff hair protects the head, its abundance making any artificial covering

superfluous. It is worn long, generally divided at the neck, so as to hang in two folds over the shoulders and back, but is sometimes bound over the temples by a fillet, over which it flows in ample luxuriance. Like more civilised people, the Patagonians take great pride in the proper disposition and effective display of their hair. Their teeth are generally beautiful, sound, and white—about the only attractive and civilised feature of their persons. Feet and hands are large, but not disproportionate to their total bulk. They have deep, heavy voices, and speak in guttural tones—the worst guttural I ever heard—with a muttering, indistinct articulation, much as if their mouths were filled with hot pudding. Their countenances are generally stupid, but on closer inspection there is a gleam of low cunning that flashes through this dull mask, and is increasingly discernible on acquaintance with them; when excited or engaged in any earnest business that calls their faculties into full exercise, their features light up with unexpected intelligence and animation . . . . The women are proportionably smaller than the men, and rather inclined to *embonpoint*.”

Captain Cowley in a voyage to one of the Ladrone Islands, far distant from Patagonia, in 1683, is said to have found there some inhabitants seven feet and a half high; but this is a doubtful story. As also is another, told in a dubious way, of Captain George Shelvoek’s voyage in 1719 to the Island of Chiloe, off the coast of Chili, where he found Indians nine or ten



feet high. But even these travellers' tales are outdone by one published in 1671, which gave an account of certain hairy giants inhabiting two islands in the South Sea, respectively called Bengana and Comæ, and discovered by Henry Schooten. These people were twelve feet high or thereabouts. The description of them was translated into English by "P. M.," and published in 1671, and it was reprinted in 1766. It may be that some of these legends inspired the contemporary lines "Upon a Giant angling," printed in Dryden's *Miscellany*, but said to have been written by Daniel Kenricus, a physician at Worcester, who flourished in 1685. One passage in this poem runs as follows :

" His angle-rod made of a sturdy oak,  
His line a cable that in storms ne'er broke ;  
His hook he baited with a dragon's tail,  
And sat upon a rock and bobb'd for whale."

## CHAPTER V.

Benlli the Giant—his golden vest—Rollo or Rolf the Ganger—Giant King of Norway—Guy Earl of Warwick—Colbrand—Relics of Guy at Warwick Castle—Funnam—Nicholas Kieten—Ireland and Giants—Sir Richard Herbert—Giant of Bordeaux—Giant Fleming—Hans Braw—Aymon—Baron Benteurieder—Trick by Dwarf on Giant—Long Meg of Westminster—Huge Armour in Tower—Philargyrie—Giants and Dwarf in the Tower—Giants in May-games—Flemish Giant—Queen Elizabeth's Giant Porter—Middleton, the child of Hale—Giant Piedmontese—Tartar Giant—Dutchmen of strange stature—Shakespeare and Giants—Ascapart—Antony Payne, the Cornish Giant—Giant Girl—Jacob Damman—Several Giants mentioned by Physicians and Travellers.

IN the year 500 lived Benlli Gawr, or Benlli the Giant, at Yr Weyddgrug, now called Mold, in Flintshire. The hill upon the summit of which he collected his warriors is still called Moel Benlli. In 1833 the overseer of the highways in those parts caused a tumulus to be removed in order to obtain materials with which to mend the roads, it being supposed that this tumulus from its depth was a gravel-pit. At the lower part of it were found some large bones, a skull of greater than the usual size, a bright corslet, and two or three hundred amber beads. The late Dr. Owen Pughe, the celebrated antiquary and historian, ascertained from ancient Welsh manuscripts and the Triads that the person here buried was Benlli. The corslet, which is now in the British

Museum, and is called the Loriea or Golden Vest, is of leather, eased with thin fine gold of most beautiful workmanship. The field in which it was found, near to the town of Mold, is known by the name of the Cae Ellyllion, or the Field of the Goblin; and a story is current that a man of gigantic stature, with a breastplate or vest of gold, may be seen standing upon the site of the tumulus at night, and that many persons have been much frightened at his appearance.

Rollo or Rolf, surnamed the Ganger or Walker, a leader of the Danes in the ninth century, and who married the daughter of Charles the Simple, is said to have been too tall and heavy for any horse to carry, and therefore he was obliged always to travel on foot, hence the addition to his name. The *Heimskringla* states that the stature of Harold Hardrada, the king of Norway, was five ells, or more than eight English feet.

In the life of Athelstan, who reigned from 925 to 941, we read of that prodigy of valour, Guy Earl of Warwick, returning from the Holy Land in the habit of a pilgrim, at a time when Athelstan was in great distress for a champion to fight Colbrand, a monstrous Danish giant, who on behalf of the Danes had challenged any person whom the king should bring into the field. Guy accepted this challenge, fought the giant near Winchester, and killed him, and the Danes yielded the victory; while Guy privately retired to a hermit's cell near Warwick, and there ended his days. This romantic story is very pompously told by Dray-

ton in his *Polyolbion*, and is mentioned by Brompton, Dr. Robert Bigsby, and other learned writers. Colbrand is named in the old romance of *The Squyr of Lowe Degre* as follows :

“ Or els so doughty of my honde  
As was the gyeunte Syr Colbronde.”

Shakespeare also refers to this hero. In *King John*, act i. sc. 1, Philip says :

“ Colbrand the giant, that same mighty man ?”

In *Henry VIII.* act v. sc. 3, the porter's man says :  
“ I am not Samson, nor Sir Guy, nor Colbrand, to  
mow them down before me.”

At Warwick Castle are preserved some so-called relics of Guy Earl of Warwick. They consist of his porridge-pot, flesh-fork, breastplates, shield, sword, helmet, tilting-pole, and walking-staff, six feet long. The porridge-pot is composed of bell-metal, and is said to weigh three hundred pounds, and to contain one hundred and twenty gallons. It is, in fact, a garrison crock or caldron of the sixteenth century, and was used to prepare junkets for the retainers of the Earls of Warwick. It does not appear that this brazen vessel has always been known as the giant hero's porridge-pot, for in former times it was called Talbot's pot. An old couplet says :

“ There's nothing left of Talbot's name  
But Talbot's pot and Talbot's Lane.”

The flesh-fork is of iron, and six feet long, and is really a military instrument of the time of Henry VIII. The armour could not have belonged to the

legendary Guy, for it is of comparatively modern manufacture, and was made for a horse, and not for a man. One breastplate is the croupe of a suit of horse armour, and another is a poitrel. The shield, weighing thirty pounds, belongs to the time of Henry VIII. The sword, weighing twenty pounds, is said to be the one with which Guy vanquished a dun cow on Dunsmore Heath, which, according to a black-letter story-book of the sixteenth century, was a perfect monster, being six yards in length, and four yards in height, with large sharp horns and fiery eyes. A rib-bone of this terrible animal is also exhibited at the castle, but unfortunately for the story it is not a cow's bone at all, but belonged to an urus, an extinct species of buffalo. Dr. Cais, writing about 1552, says: "The horns of these animals were in common use at the table on more solemn feasts, in lieu of cups, in our boyhood." In the reign of Henry VIII. the custody of Guy's sword was granted by patent to William Hoggenson, yeoman of the buttery, with a salary of twopence a day. There are also preserved the tusk and blade-bone of a boar which Guy is reputed to have slain; and he is also credited with having killed a green dragon. The romance of Guy was dramatised by an old playwright, and performed in the sixteenth century at taverns and such-like places of public amusement. Taylor, the water poet, in his *Pennilesse Pilgrimage*, in 1618, tells us that he saw the play represented at the Maidenhead, in Islington. Gough, in his ad-



ditions to Camden, says: "The story of Guy is so obseured by fable that it is diffieult to aseertain its authenticity. He was the hero of suceeeding Earls of Warwiek."

In the time of Eugene II. king of Scotland, in some remote period, eertainly before 1149, lived a Seotehman, named Funnam, who was over eleven feet high.

In the thirteenth century there was a giant in Holland, named Nieholas Kieten, whose size was so prodigious that he earried men under his arms like little ehildren. His shoe was so large that four men together could put their feet into it. Children were too terrified to look him in the faee, and fled from his presenee.

In an aecount of tall men preserved among the Lambeth Mss., we read of "Long Mores, a man of Yreland borne, and servaunt to King Edward the iiij<sup>th</sup> (1461-1483), vi foote and x inehes and a half." Ireland has sent several giants to England. Dr. Pritchard, who was of opinion that peculiarities of stature might be in some measure owing to peeuliarities of elimatc, says in his *History of Mankind*: "In Ireland men of uncommon stature are often seen, and even a gigantie form and stature occur there much more frequently than in this island: yet all the British isles derived their stock of inhabitants from the same sourees. We can hardly avoid the eonelusion that there must be some peeuliarity in Ireland which gives rise to these phenomena."

Fuller, in his *Worthies of Monmouthshire*, tells us that Sir Richard Herbert, who lived in the reign of Edward IV., and who is said to have killed one hundred and forty men in one day, "is reported also to be of a giant's stature, the peg being extant in Mountgomery Castle whereon he used to hang his hat at dinner, which no man of an ordinary height can reach with his hand at this day."

Joh. Cassanio, in his *De Gigantibus*, 1580, says that a peasant man, commonly called the Giant of Bordeaux, in Aquitania, lived at the former place, where he was seen by Francis I. of France (1515-1547), who much admired him, and commanded that he should become one of his guards. The man, after he had joined the king's suite, became tired of the life of a court, and, running away from his duties, returned to his native place. Cassanio relates that he had been assured by reliable persons who had seen this giant when he was an archer of the guards that he was of so great a stature that a man of ordinary size might walk upright between his legs when they were astride.

Merula says that in 1538 he saw in France a Fleming who exceeded nine feet in height.

Keysler, in the account of his travels in the middle of the eighteenth century, tells us that at the castle of Ambras, in the Tyrol, were the pictures of some natives of that country of an extraordinary height. One was Hans Braw, who was drawn in 1550, he then being in the fifty-eighth year of his

age. He was twelve feet high, and, as Keysler adds, was "not inferior to Goliath, whose stature is with great appearance of justness estimated at twelve feet and something above eight inches English measure." Near to Braw's portrait hung one of a woman named the Tall Spinster, who was little short of eleven feet high. Against a wall in the castle stood the wooden image of Aymon, who belonged to the Archduke Ferdinand's body-guards. He was eleven feet in height, and did not live much above his fortieth year. The famous Baron Benteurieder, an imperial minister, who was eight feet eight inches high, and also did not attain any great age, travelling near Ambras Castle some years before Keysler wrote, measured himself against the wooden giant, but hardly reached up to his armpits. At Aymon's side stood another wooden image, only three spans high, representing a dwarf who lived at the same time in Ferdinand's court. As Aymon frequently bantered the dwarf on his diminutive figure, the latter privately desired the duke that when at table he would drop one of his gloves and order Aymon to take it up. The dwarf in the mean time crept under the duke's chair, and while Aymon was stooping for the glove he gave him a blow on the face, to the great diversion of all the company.

In the reign of Henry VIII. "was borne, of very honest and wealthy parents, a maid called for her excesse in height Long Meg: for she did not onely passe all the rest of her cuntry in the length

of her proportion, but euery limbe was so fit to her talnesse, that she seemed the pieture and shape of some tall man east in a woman mould." So says a curious pamphlet or chap-book published in 1635, and entitled "*The Life of Long Meg of Westminster* : containing the mad merry pranks she played in her lifetime, not onely in performing sundry quarrels with divers ruffians about London : but also how valiantly she behaued her selfe in the warres of Bolloingne."

This apoeryphal work relates, with much attention to detail and in several chapters, how Meg came up from the cuntry to London, beat a carrier on the way, used a vicar and a bailiff of Westminster, merrily skirmished with a Spanish knight, fought with thieves, beat the French at Boulogne, got married, played mad pranks with a waterman of Lambeth, and did other strange exploits with hoydenish prowess.

Long before the date of her pamphlet-biography Meg was ecelebrated in song and drama, to whieh then popular means of appealing to the sympathies of the rude multitude her roystering proclivities were exaetly suited. The registers of the Stationers' Company show that on February 14th, 1594, Jolm Danter entered for his eopy a ballad entitled *The madd merye pranckes of Long Megg of Westminster*. Henslowe's Diary reecords under the same date a play called *Long Meg*; and it may be that when Danter made the above-named entry in the books of the Stationers' Company he did so in antieipation of a

manuscript copy of the comedy which he hoped to procure, or intending to have a ballad written upon the subject by some poetaster in his service. It appears from a passage in Nat Field's *Amends for Ladies*, produced in 1618, that the play of *Long Meg* was then popular at the Fortune Theatre, which stood between Whitcross-street and Golding- (now Golden) lane, and was burnt down three years after the last-mentioned date.

Gabriel Harvey, in his *Peirce's Supererogation, or a New Praise of the Old Asse*, 1600, writes about Long Meg, and tells us that she knew some rules of decorum; which fact makes us the more regret her culpability of conduct in committing so much assault and battery, and, worse than all, keeping as she did an infamous house on Southwark side, if we may believe a rare tract entitled *Hollands Leaguer*, published in 1632.

Ben Jonson makes one of the characters in his masque of the *Fortunate Isles*, which was performed before the court on January 9th, 1624, say—

“ Or Westminster Meg,  
With her long leg,  
As long as a crane ;  
And feet like a plane,  
With a pair of heels  
As broad as two wheels ;”

which is anything but a flattering reference to the lower limbs of a lady. But a further indignity was reserved for our heroine, whose abnormal stature was quoted in a common proverb—“ As long as Meg of



Westminster"—which is cited by Fuller in his *Worthies*, 1651, and by Ray in his *Collection of English Proverbs*, 1670. It was applied to very tall persons, especially if they had great height without proportionable breadth.

It is said that this terrible tall virago Meg was buried in the south side of the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, where a huge stone was long pointed out to holiday visitors as her grave-stone. Fuller says that this was as long, large, and entire a marble as ever he beheld; "but be it known that no woman in that age was interred in the cloisters appropriated to the sepultures of the abbot and his monkes. Besides I have read in the records of the abbey of an infectious year, wherein many monkes died of the plague, and were all buried in one grave, probably in this place, under this marble monument."

That there ever was such a giant-woman cannot be proved by any good witness, says Fuller; and he adds, that the proverb given above probably related to a great gun lying in the Tower, commonly called Long Meg, and in troublesome times brought to Westminster, where for a good while it continued. With much respect for this historian, we doubt the correctness of his surmise. It is more likely that the adage was an exfoliation of that legendary lore of persons which the sixteenth and seventeenth century people so well cherished.

Meg's fame was not merely local, for at Little Salkeld, near Penrith, is a Druid's temple, which

has many years been called Long Meg and her Daughters, this interesting family being huge blocks of stone.

In the Tower armoury is a suit of armour of the time of Henry VIII., which is said to have been made for a man seven feet in height; and it is also stated to have been worn by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in the fourteenth century. The sword and lance are of enormous size.

In 1551 was written by Robert Crowley "The Fable of Philargyrie, the Great Giant of Great Britain, what houses were builded and lands appointed for his provisions, and how all the same is wasted to contente his greedy gut wythall, and yet he rageth for honger." We have not seen this work, but from its title we incline to think that it was meant as a satire on Henry VIII.

Ainsworth, in his romance of *The Tower of London*, under date 1553, tells us that "its arched Gothie doorway was guarded by three gigantic warders, brothers, who, claiming direct descent from the late monarch, Harry the Eighth, were nicknamed by their companions, from their extraordinary stature, Og, Gog, and Magog. Og, the eldest of the three, was the exact image, on a large scale, of his royal sire. By their side, as if for the sake of contrast, with an immense halbert in his hand, and a look of swelling importance rivalling that of the frog in the fable, stood a diminutive but full-grown being, not two feet high, dressed in the garb of a

page. This mannikin, who, besides his pigmy figure, had a malevolent and ill-favoured countenance, with a shock head of yellow hair, was a constant attendant upon the giants, and an endless source of diversion to them. Xit—for so was the dwarf named—had been found, when an infant, and scarcely bigger than a thumb, one morning at Og's door, where he was placed in the fragment of a blanket, probably out of ridicule. Thrown thus upon his compassion, the good-humoured giant adopted the tiny foundling, and he became, as has been stated, a constant attendant and playmate—or, more properly, plaything—of himself and his brethren." All the giants were nearly eight feet high, though Magog exceeded the others by an inch. These giants and dwarf take active parts in the romance, which tells us how Master Edward Underhill, the "Hot-Gospeller," endeavoured to convert them; how Og hung Xit upon a hook in a wall; how Magog became enamoured of a buxom widow; how he went a-wooing, and how he prospered in his suit; how Magog nearly lost his supper; how his beard was burnt; how Xit was placed in a basket, and how he was kicked upon the ramparts; how Magog gave his dame a lesson; how Xit conquered a monkey, and was worsted by a bear; how he was imprisoned in the Constable Tower, and how he was wedded to the "scavenger's daughter;" how he escaped from the Constable Tower, and how he found Cicely; how he discovered the secret of his birth, and how he was knighted

under the title of Sir Narcissus le Grand; of his wedding with Jane the Fool, and what happened at it; and of the entertainment given by him on the occasion to his old friends at the Stone Kitchen.

Strype in his *Memorials* tells us that giants were introduced into May games, and that on May 26th, 1555, there was a game in St. Martin's-in-the-Field's with, among other amusements, giants, which were in fact men on stilts.

Johannes Goropius Becanus, physieian to the sister of the Emperor Charles V., in his *Origines Antwerpianæ*, 1569, and *De Gigantomachia*, attests that he saw a youth nearly nine feet, and a man almost, and a woman quite, ten feet in height. The man lived within a few miles of the author's own residence in Flanders.

At Hampton Court Palace, in the guard-chamber, is a painting by F. Zucehero, representing Queen Elizabeth's gigantic porter in a Spanish dress. He was seven feet six inches in height, and a native of the Low Countries.

In the chapelry of Hale, in Lancashire, was born, in the year 1572 or 1578, John Middleton, commonly called the Child of Hale, who was remarkable for his extraordinary strength and largeness of stature, he being nine feet three inches high. It is traditionally reported that Sir Gilbert Ireland of Hale, who was sheriff of Lancashire in 1620, took him to London, and introduced him to James I., dressed

very fantastically. On his return home a portrait was taken of him, which is preserved in the library of Brazenose College, at Oxford. Nichols, in his *Progresses of James I.*, written about 1828, says that at that time a full-length portrait of Middleton, depicted in the very dress which he wore upon the occasion of his visit to James I., was still preserved at Hale Hall. The painting was inscribed: "John Middleton, Child of Hale, was born in the year 1572; died in 1628, aged 56; buried in Hale churchyard; stands nine feet high. From his elbow to his middle finger, three feet; from his wrist to the end of his middle finger, nine inches and a half." Dr. Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, gives the following account of him: "John Middleton, commonly called the Child of Hale, in the county of Lane: whose hand from the carpus to the end of his middle finger was seventeen inches long, his palm eight inches and a half broad, and his whole height nine foot three inches, wanting but six inches of the height of Goliath, if that in Brasenose College Library (drawn at length, as 'tis said, in his just proportions) be a true piece of him."

Martin del Rio says that he saw a Piedmontese at Rouen, in 1572, who was nine feet high.

Thuanus, treating of an invasion made by the Tartars upon the Polanders in 1575, says that the forehead of a Tartar, slain by one Jacobus Niezabilovius, a Pole, was twenty-four inches broad, and his body was of so prodigious a bulk, that as



he lay dead on the ground his carcass reached to the navel of any ordinary person standing by the side of it.

Stow, in his *Chronicle*, says that “In the yeare 1581 were to be seene in London two Dutchmen of strange statures, the one in height seuen foot and seuen inches, in breadth betwixt the shoulders three-quarters of a yard and an inch, the compasse of his breast one yard and halfe and two inches, and about the wast one yard quarter and one inch; the length of his arme to the hand a full yard; a comely man of person, but lame on his legges (for he had broken them with lifting of a barrel of beere). The other was in height but three foote. . . . . I myselfe, on the 17 of July, saw the taller man sitting on a bench bare-headed, and the lesser standing on the same bench, and hauing on his head a hat with a feather, was yet the lower. Also the taller man standing on his feet, the lesser (with his hat and feather on his head) went vpright between his legs, and touched him not.”

Shakespeare frequently mentions giants in his plays, as the following extracts will show. In the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, act ii. sc. 1, Mrs. Page says, “I had rather be a giantess, and lie under Mount Pelion.” In act v. sc. 1, Falstaff says, “I fear not Goliath with a weaver’s beam, because I know, also, life is a shuttle.” In *Twelfth Night*, act i. sc. 3, Sir Toby Belch, praising Sir Andrew Aguccheek, says, “He’s as tall a man as any’s in

Illyria." In *Measure for Measure*, act ii. sc. 2, Isabella says :

"O, 'tis excellent  
To have a giant's strength ; but it is tyrannous  
To use it like a giant."

In act iii. sc. 1, the same lady says :

"And the poor beetle that we tread upon  
In corporal sufferance finds a pang as great  
As when a giant dies."

In *Much Ado about Nothing*, act v. sc. 1, says

"*Don Pedro*. What a pretty thing man is, when he goes in his doublet and hose, and leaves off his wit !

*Claudio*. He is then a giant to an ape."

In *Love's Labours lost*, act iii. sc. 1, Biron says,  
"This senior-junior, giant-dwarf, Dan Cupid." In  
*As you like it*, act iv. sc. 3, Rosalind says :

"Woman's gentle brain  
Could not drop forth such giant-rude invention."

In *Macbeth*, act v. sc. 2, Angus says :

"Now does he feel his title  
Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe  
Upon a dwarfish thief."

In 2 *Henry VI.*, act ii. sc. 3, Horner says,  
"Peter, have at thee with a downright blow, as  
Bevis of Southampton fell upon Ascapart." The  
latter was a giant whose name was familiar to our  
ancestors. He is mentioned by Dr. Donne :

"Those Ascaparts, men big enough to throw  
Charing-cross for a bar."

Another poet speaks of

"Askepate,  
Who neer Southampton, a full mile had strength,  
To throw a mill-stone on his foot at length :

So vast a stone upon his foot below,  
 Seem'd but a corn upon the gyant's toe :  
 The place to this day to be seen, doth tell  
 Where this was done, and where the mill-stone fell,  
 And such stout Coronæus was, from whom  
 Cornwall's first honor and name doth come."

Steevens says that the figures of the combatants Bevis and Asepart were still preserved on the gates of Southampton. Sir Bevis of Hampton was the subject of a metrical Anglo-Saxon ballad.

In *Cymbeline*, act iii. se. 3, Belarius says :

"The gates of monarchs  
 Are arch'd so high, that giants may jet through  
 And keep their impious turbans on, without  
 Good morrow to the sun."

In *King Lear*, act iv. se. 6, the king says,  
 "There's my gauntlet ; I'll prove it on a giant."

At the beginning of the seventeenth century was born Antony Payne, the Cornish giant, of whom an interesting account is given in *All the Year Round* for September 22d, 1866, from which the following facts are collected. He was the son of a tenant of Sir Beville Granville of Stowe, and his father occupied the manor-house of Stratton, a neighbouring town. His parents were of the yeoman rank in life, and possessed no singularity of personal aspect or frame. But Antony, their son, grew into preternatural stature and strength. His proportions were so vast that when he was a mere lad his schoolmates were accustomed to borrow his back, and for sport to work out thereon in chalk their lessons. His strength and skill in every boyish game were mar-

vellous, and his mental and intellectual faculties increased with his physical growth. It was his delight to select two of his stoutest companions, whom he termed his "kittens," and with one under each arm to climb some neighbouring sea-cliff, "to show them the world," as he said. The country lads still, when they describe anything of excessive dimensions, call it "as long as Tony Payne's foot."

At the age of twenty-one he was taken into the Stowe establishment as a retainer. He then measured seven feet two inches without his shoes, and he afterwards grew two inches higher. He was wide-chested, ample-limbed, and symmetrical. He was the leader of Sir Beville's sports. He embowelled and flayed the hunted deer, and carried the carcasses on his shoulders to the hall. The skins were dressed and shaped into a jerkin for his own use, and it took the hides of three full-grown deer to make the garment complete. At the hurler's ground at Stowe may still be seen a rough block of stone which is called "Payne's Cast," and which lies full ten paces beyond the reach whereat the ordinary players could "put the stone." It is said that one Christmas-eve a boy with an ass was sent into the woods for fuel logs, and, as he loitered on his way, Antony went to fetch him, and brought home the loaded animal on his back. Another time he strode alone from Kilkhampton to Stowe with a bacon-hog of three hundredweight thrown across his shoulders, and merely because a taunting butcher

had doubted his strength for the feat. He was by no means clumsy or uncouth, but as nimble and elastic, and as capable of swift and dexterous movement, as a light and muscular man. Added to this, he had a strong and acute intellect, and was also happy in his language, and of a ready wit.

Troublous times coming, Sir Beville gathered his troops, and joined the cause of his king, then at war with his parliament. Antony became his master's body-guard; and at last, tidings arriving that the Parliamentary battalions, led by Lord Stamford, were approaching Stowe, Antony and a picked company went to meet him. A battle ensued, and the Royalists won it. Antony arranged the burial of the dead on the field of fight. He caused large trenches to be laid open, each to hold ten bodies side by side, and there he and his followers carried in the slain. On one occasion they had lain down nine corpses, and Payne was bringing in another, tucked under his arm, when all at once the supposed dead man pleaded earnestly with him—"Surely you wouldn't bury me, Mr. Payne, before I am dead?" "I tell thee, man," was the reply, "our trench was dug for ten, and there's nine in already; you must take your place." "But I beain't dead, I say; I haven't done living yet. Be massyful, Mr. Payne; don't ye hurry a poor fellow into the earth before his time." "I won't hurry thee; I mean to put thee down quietly and eover thee up, and then thee eanst die at thy lei-



sure." Payne, however, carried his suppliant carefully to his own cottage.

The same year the battle of Lansdown was fought; the Parliamentary forces prevailed, and Sir Beville was killed. Payne was still at his side; and when his master fell, he mounted young John Granville, a youth of sixteen, on his father's horse, and led the Granville troop into the fight. A letter which he wrote to his mistress at Stowe is still preserved; and in quaint language it expresses his sympathy and homage.

After the Restoration, Sir Beville's son John was appointed by Charles II. governor of Plymouth Garrison, and there Payne was placed as halberdier of the guns. The king, who held him in great favour, commanded his portrait to be painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller. This picture hung for some years in the great gallery at Stowe; thence, when that mansion was dismantled, at the death of the Earl of Bath, it was removed to Penheale, another manor-house of the Granvilles, in Cornwall. Many years afterwards Gilbert, the Cornish historian, discovered the portrait rolled up in an empty room, and it was described by a farmer's wife as "a carpet with the effigy of a large man upon it." It was a gift to her husband, she said, from the landlord's steward, and she was glad to sell it as she did for eight pounds. When Gilbert died his collection was sold by auction at Devonport, where he lived, and Payne's portrait, which had been engraved as the frontispiece to the

second volume of Gilbert's *History of Cornwall*, was bought by a stranger, a connoisseur in paintings, at the price of forty guineas. He conveyed it to London, where it was resold for eight hundred pounds. This picture shows Payne as a soldier of the Guard. One hand is placed upon a cannon, and the other wields the tall halberd of his office. This very weapon, and a large flask or flagon sheathed in wicker-work, which is said to have held "Antony's allowance," a gallon of wine, and which is placed in the picture on the ground at his feet, are now in the possession of the writer of the article in *All the Year Round* to which we have before referred, in the Vicarage House, near Stowe.

One day after William and Mary had been enthroned, at a mess-table of the regiment in Plymouth garrison, on the anniversary of the day when Charles I. had been beheaded, a sub-officer of Payne's own rank had in mockery ordered a calf's head to be served up in a "William and Mary dish," a delf article, with the faces of these two sovereigns for ornament. When Payne entered the room, and saw the symbolic and insulting viands, he threw the dish and its contents out of window. A quarrel and a challenge ensued, and on the following morning Payne and his antagonist fought with swords. After a smart contest Payne ran his adversary through the sword-arm, and disabled him. He is said to have accompanied the successful thrust with the taunt, "There's sauce for thy calf's head!"

When Payne grew old he retired from the army, and returned to Stratton, his native place, where he died. After his death, neither the door nor the stairs would afford egress for his corpse. The joists had to be sawn through, and the floor lowered with a rope and pulley, to enable the giant to be taken out. Relays of strong bearers carried him to his grave, outside the southern wall of Stratton Church. His huge vault was broken into by accident many years ago, but only a heap of dust remained in it.

Platerus, a physician of the seventeenth century, tells us that he saw in the territory of Basle a girl five years of age, whose body was as large as that of a full-grown woman. Her thighs were thicker than his horse's neck, and the calf of her leg was equal in size to the thigh of a lusty man. The girdle that she wore about her waist would go round her father and mother standing together. Before she was a year old she weighed as much as a sack of wheat that held eight bushels. She was seen by Count Henry of Fustemburg, with much wonderment. She died in childhood.

Platerus also says, "I saw a young man at Luneburgh called Jacob Damman, who for his extraordinary stature was carried through Germany to be seen. Anno 1613 he was brought to us at Basil; he was then twenty-three years and a half of age; beardless as yet, strong of body and limbs, save that at that time he was rather sick and lean; he was nine feet high complete; the length of his hand was

one foot six inches." Skenkius, another physician of the seventeenth century, saw several men over eight feet high. Gaspard Bauhin (born 1560, died 1624) speaks of a Swiss who was eight feet high; and Vander Linden (born 1609, died 1664) mentions a Frisian of the same height. Uffenbach describes the skeleton of a woman which was eight feet six inches long. Peter Vanden Broecke, a Dutch traveller to the East Indies, who wrote in 1634 and 1640, speaks of a negro of Congo who was nine feet high. Julius Scaliger describes a giant whom he saw at Milan, lying upon two beds placed end to end.

Marcellus Donatus, who wrote in 1569 and later, says he saw a young girl of giant stature, who was carried about as a show, with her mother, a woman of mean height. Neither the girl's father nor one of her ancestors was tall. Probably she is the person whom Becanus saw (page 94), and who was, as he says, ten feet high.

Holinshed, in 1577, says: "I have seene a man myselfe of seven foot in height, but lame of his legs. The Chronicle also of Cogshall speakes of one in Wales who was half a foot higher, but through infirmities and wounds not able to be weld himselfe."

## CHAPTER VI.

Walter Parsons, Porter to James I.—William Evans—Giants and Dwarfs together—Whim of Empress of Austria—Bodily Differences between Giants and Dwarfs—Oliver Cromwell's Giant Porter—Pepys sees Giant Dutchman—John Tates—Pepys sees a Giant Woman—Thomas Birtles, Cheshire Giant—Miller, German Giant—Munster, Duke John Frederic's Giant—Edmund Malone—Charles II. and Giant—Bartholomew Fair—Giant Turk—Huge Os Frontis—Giant Polander, presented to Maximilian II.—Giant Skeleton at Repton—King Askew—James Hanson—Irish Giantess—the Painted Prince—Hugh Hird—Baron Burford—Giant's Bone—Giants domestic Recreations.

A MOST celebrated giant was Walter Parsons, the porter to James I. Fuller, in his *Worthies*, says that he was born in Staffordshire, and was apprenticed to a smith; but “he grew so tall in stature that a hole was made for him in the ground to stand therein up to the knees, so as to make him adequate with his fellow-workmen. He afterwards was porter to King James; seeing as gates generally are higher than the rest of the building, so it was sightly that the porter should be taller than other persons. He was proportionable in all parts, and had strength equal to height, valour to his strength, temper to his valour; so that he disdained to do an injury to any single person. He would make nothing to take two of the tallest yeomen of the Guard (like



the gizard and liver) under his arms at once, and order them as he pleased." His height has been variously stated as follows: seven feet two inches, seven feet four inches, and seven feet seven inches. His parents were of the ordinary stature. He died in 162-.

John Collett, who was born in 1633, in his common-place book, now preserved in the British Museum, made an entry about this giant similar to that which Fuller wrote as above. Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, gives a more detailed account of Parsons. Writing of certain strong men he says: "Not at all inferior to any of these in matters of strength was one Walter Parsons of West Bromwich in this county, though his was not so much to be admired as theirs, who were men but of a middleing ordinary size, whereas Parsons had a stature proportionable to his strength; being so very tall when he was a young apprentice that they were forced to digg a hole in the ground for him to stand in up to his knees, when he struek at the anvil (for he was first a blaeksmith) or sawed wood with another, that he might be at a level with his fellow-workman. At length he became porter to King James the First, where he behaved himself so generously, that though he had valour equal to his strength, yet he scorned to take advantage to injure any person by it; upon which account we have but few experiments left us of his great strength, but such as were sportive: as that being affronted by a man of ordinary stature, as he walkt

London streets, he only took him up by the waistband of his breeches, and hung him upon one of the hooks in the shambles, to be ridicul'd by the people, and so went his way : and that sometimes by way of merryment he would take two of the tallest yeomen of the Guard (like the gizzard and liver) under his arms, and carry them as he pleased (in spite of all resistence) about the guard-chamber : where (if I am not misinformed) that is his picture which hangs at the end next the stairs, leading down into the court toward White Hall gate. There is another picture of him, as I have been told also by some, in the great room at the Pope's Head Tavern, in Pope's Head alley ; but whether they are the true pictures of him or noe, it being uncertain that they were drawn in the just proportion, I took not the pains to have them measur'd ; chusing rather to collect what his height might be, from a true measure of his hand yet remaining upon a piece of wainscot at Bentley Hall : by which it appears that from the carpus to the end of the middle finger it was eleven inches long, and the palm six inches broad." Plot, comparing the length and breadth of Parsons's hand with those of the hand of Edmund Malloon or Malone, who was seven feet six or seven inches high, concludes that that was the height of Parsons also. An engraving of the latter by G. Glover was published in 1636.

After the death of James I., Parsons became porter to Charles I. ; but he was succeeded in that office by William Evans, a native of Monmouthshire,

who surpassed him in height by about two inches. Evans was, however, much weaker than his predecessor. Fuller says that he was full two yards and a half in length, but far beneath Parsons in "an equal proportion of body; for he was not only what the Latines call *compertis*, knocking his knees together, and going out squalling with his feet, but also haulted a little; yet made he a shift to dance in an antimask at court, where he drew little Jeffrey the dwarf out of his pocket, first to the wonder, then to the laughter of the beholders." In Newgate-street, over the entrance to a court, still remains a small sculpture in low relief of these two remarkable persons, thus inscribed: "M. P. A. (probably the initials of the builder) The King's Porter and Dwarf." Evans wears a long gown with hanging sleeves, and bears his staff of office. Jeffrey, whose height was only three feet nine inches, is wrapped in an ample cloak. Evans died in 163-. Glover issued a unique print of this giant.

This story of a giant and dwarf brought into juxtaposition is matched by another, which states that at the time when the republic of the Valais, in Switzerland, renewed its solemn alliance with the seven Catholic cantons, a drama in the German style was got up and performed at Lucerne, for the diversion of the deputies. At the end of the performance, a man of gigantic stature and amazing bulk made his appearance on the stage. He walked about for some time, went through several pantomimes, and at last

disencumbered himself, from the folds of his clothes, of no fewer than eight boys, who, thus freed from their concealment, paid the company several light compliments, and with a parting bow made their exit along with the giant.

Guy Patin, a celebrated French surgeon, relates that in the seventeenth century, in order to gratify a whim of the Empress of Austria, all the giants and dwarfs in the Germanic empire were assembled at Vienna. As circumstances required that all should be housed in one extensive building, it was feared lest the imposing proportions of the giants should terrify the dwarfs; and means were taken to assure the latter of their perfect safety. But, in confirmation of the proverb, "A dwarf threatens Hercules," the result was very different to that contemplated. The dwarfs teased, insulted, and even robbed the giants to such an extent, that the overgrown mortals, with tears in their eyes, complained of their stunted persecutors; and as a consequence, sentinels had to be stationed in the building to protect the giants from the dwarfs.

This story illustrates the fact, that giants are almost always characterised by mental and bodily weakness; while dwarfs are generally active, intelligent, and healthy. Giants seldom have strength or valour commensurate with their physical proportions, but are as a rule sickly, knock-kneed, splay-footed, feeble in mind, and short-lived.

Virey says: "Tall men are generally much more

weak and slow than short men, for all exertions, both of body and mind. If men of high stature are preferred for their fine appearance in the body-guard of princes, and in the service of eminent persons, they are certainly neither the most robust nor the most active; but they are docile, candid, and naïve, little prone to conspire for evil, and faithful even to the worst master. In war, they are more fitted for defence than attack; whereas, an impetuous and brusque action suits better for short and vivacious men. Tall men are mostly tame and insipid, like watery vegetables; insomuch, that we seldom hear of a very tall man becoming a very great man. Little men manifest a character more firm and decided than those lofty and soft-bodied people, whom we can lead more easily both morally and physically." If we may trust the modern deductions of science, Goliath was a very weak man, while strong Samson can hardly have reached the middle height. Therefore, the proverbial expression, "Long and lazy, little and loud," may be true for physical reasons.

Oliver Cromwell had a porter named Daniel, who was seven feet six inches high, and whose standard was recorded by a large O on the back of the terrace at Windsor Castle, almost under the window of the gallery. This man went mad, and prophesied as an enthusiast, his brain being turned by his study of books of speculative divinity. He frequently preached, and was said to have foretold several remarkable events, particularly the Fire of



London. He was confined many years in Bedlam, where he was allowed, after some time, the use of his mystical library, as there was not the least probability of his cure. One of his most important books was a large Bible, given to him by Nell Gwynn. He is said to have been the original from which Caius Gabriel, the father of Colley Cibber, copied one of the lunatic figures on Bedlam gate. Charles Leslie, in his *Snake in the Grass*, 1698, tells us that people often went to hear Daniel preach, and they would sit many hours under his windows, with great signs of devotion. This writer adds, that a gentleman had the curiosity to ask a woman who was among the auditors what she could profit by hearing that madman rave. She pityingly replied, that Festus thought Paul was mad. The *Tatler*, for August 6th, 1709, says: "The renowned porter of Oliver had not more volumes around his cell in his college of Bedlam, than Orlando in his present apartment." Dr. King says, in his *Remarks on the Tale of a Tub*, 1776, "The book was written (says one) by a surgeon's man who had married a midwife's nurse. But (cries another) Oliver's porter had an amanuensis in Bedlam, who used to transcribe what he dictated; and may not these be some scattered notes of his master's? To which all replied, that though Oliver's porter was crazed, his misfortune never made him forget that he was a Christian." In Whitechapel there was a sign of "Daniel," taken from a print of St. Peter. Bromley says that his

portrait was painted by Lanron, and engraved by Tempest. It was published by J. Caulfield in 1793, the engraver being W. J. Taylor; and it is given in the *Curiosities of Biography*, 1845.

Pepys, on August 15th, 1664, was "at Charing-cross, and there saw the great Dutchman that is come over, under whose arm I went with my hat on, and could not reach higher than his eye-browes with the tip of my fingers. He is a comely and well-made man, and his wife a very little but pretty comely Dutch woman. It is true, he wears pretty high-heeled shoes, but not very high, and do generally wear a turban, which makes him show yet taller than really he is." In 1664 was published an engraving of this giant and his wife; he is described as being a German, and nine feet and a half high. Appended are English verses in several compartments.

The following is a copy of an original handbill announceing the exhibition of this man; on it was an engraving representing him with his wife on one side holding his hand; and on the other a male spectator, whose arm the giant was spanning; his thumb and finger reaching from the point of the man's extended forefinger to the bend of his arm. "The true Effigies of the German Giant, now to be seen at the Swan, near Charing Cross, whose stature is nine foot and a half in height, and the span of his hand a cubit compleat. He goes from place to place with his wife, who is but of an ordinary

stature, and takes money for the shew of her husband."

Reginald Scot, in his *Discovery of Witchcraft*, 1665, complains that domestic servants so frayed children with stories of "dwarfes, gyants," and other myths, that they were timid of their own shadows.

Isbrand Diemerbrœeck, in his *Anatomy*, tells us, that he saw at Utrecht, in 1665, a man eight feet and a half high, whose limbs were well shaped, and whose strength was proportionable to his height. He was born at Schoonhoven, in Holland, of parents of ordinary stature. Ray, in his topographical *Observations*, says, that this man's name was John Tates, and that he saw him at Bruges, in Flanders. The length of his cubit was twenty-five inches, and his middle finger was seven inches long. Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, mentions this giant; as also does Dr. Thomas Molyneux, in the *Philosophical Transactions* of 1700.

Pepys, in his *Diary*, under date January 4th, 1668-9, records: "W. Hewer and I went and saw the great tall woman that is to be seen, who is but twenty-one years old, and I do easily stand under her arms." On the 29th of the same month, Evelyn saw her. He says: "I went to see a tall gigantic woman, who measur'd 6 feet 10 inches high at 21 years old, born in the Low Countries." Pepys, who again saw this giantess on February 8th in the same year, makes her height less than Evelyn did.

He says: "To my wife, and in our way home, did show her the tall woman, in Holborne, which I have seen before; and I measured her, and she is, without shoes, just six feet five inches high, and they say not above twenty-one years old."

Probably this was the same woman as the one who was noticed by Plot, in his *Oxfordshire*, 1676, as follows: "The tallest that I have yet seen in our days, was also a woman of a Dutch extraction, shewn publickly here at Oxford, seven foot and a half high, with all her limbs proportionable; when she stretch'd forth her arm, men of ordinary stature might walk under it; and her hand, from the carpus or wrist, where it is joined to the radius of the arm, to the end of the middle finger, was full ten inches long."

About the middle of December, 1671, Thomas Birtles, a native of Cheshire, living near Macclesfield, arrived at Coventry. He had been in London, and on his journey homewards he made a public show of himself for his extraordinary stature. His height was about seven feet. His father was a man of moderate elevation, and his mother was nearly six feet high. He himself, in 1671, had a daughter, about sixteen years of age, who was six feet in height.

In 1674, was born at Leipzig, in Saxony, Maximilian Christopher Miller, the German giant, who from his infancy was remarkable for his amazing size and strength. When at maturity, he was publicly

exhibited as a show at the place of his nativity, and he travelled in several other countries, England being one of them, for the like purpose. He probably came into this country in the reign of George II. A London newspaper, of October, 1728, tells us that, "On Wednesday last arrived here from Germany a native of that country, 7 foot 8 inches high." This probably relates to Miller, as, we think, the following copies of handbills, the originals of which are now preserved in the British Museum, do also.

"G. R. This is to give notice to all gentlemen, ladies, and others. That there is just arrived from France, and is to be seen at the Two Blue Posts and Rummer, near Charing-cross, a giant, born in Saxony, almost eight foot in height, and every way proportionable; the like has not been seen in any part of the world for many years: he has had the honour to shew himself to most princes in Europe, particularly to his late majesty the King of France, who presented him with a noble seymiter, and a silver mace." The King of France herein referred to was Louis XIV., who died in 1715. James Paris, in his manuscript book in the British Museum, says that Miller was exhibited at the Blue Post, Charing-cross, about the beginning of November, 1732.

"G. R. This is to give notice to all gentlemen, ladies, and others. That there is just arrived from France, and is to be seen at the Fan, over against Devereux-court, without Temple Bar, a giant, born in



Saxony, almost eight foot in height, and every way proportionable; the like has not been seen in any part of the world for many years. He has had the honour to shew himself to most princes in Europe, particularly to his late majesty the King of France, who presented him with a noble scymitar, and a silver mace. N.B. He is to be seen from ten in the morning till eight at night, without any loss of time, his stay in this place being but short, he designing to go for Holland."

Miller attracted considerable notice in London, where L. Boitard engraved in folio his portrait from life, in April, 1733. At this time Miller was fifty-nine years of age, and measured nearly eight feet in height; his hand was twelve inches long, and one of his fingers was nine inches in length. His face and head were of an enormous size. He wore in public a kind of Hungarian jacket, a fanciful cap, with a large plume of feathers in it; and upon the introduction of his visitors he assumed the utmost importance. With a gilt sceptre in his right hand, and his left hand placed on the handle of an immense richly-mounted falchion, both being the gift of the King of France, he paraded the apartment with great state and dignity. Caulfield, in his *Remarkable Persons*, 1819, gives a representation of him, engraved by R. Grave, in the above-mentioned fantastic costume; and a similar cut is given in the *Curiosities of Biography*, 1845. Hogarth, in his print of Southwark Fair, introduces the figure of Miller on a show-cloth, which proves that he was in the habit of exhibiting himself

in public. He died in London in 1734, at the age of sixty years.

Among the yeomen of the Guard at the Court of Duke John Frederic, at Hanover, was one Christopher Munster, who, according to his epitaph and the image on his tomb, in the churchyard of the new town, in Hanover, was four Flemish ells six inches high, or eight English feet and a half. He died in 1676, aged forty-four years and two months. He chose the text for his funeral sermon, which was out of St. Mark, vii. 37: "He hath done all things well."

Wood says that an Irish youth, who was seven feet eight inches high when only nineteen years old, was to be seen at the Blew Bore, Oxford, in 1681. Dr. Thomas Molyneux says, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1700, that he saw and measured in Dublin, in 1682, a giant named Edmond Malone, who was seven feet seven inches high. Derham, in his *Physico Theology*, says: "In 1684, I myself measured an Irish youth, said to be not nineteen years old, who was seven feet near eight inches; and in 1697, a woman who was seven feet three inches high." The Irish youth was probably Edmund Malone, or Malloon (for all the writers about him spell his name variously), of whom Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, says: "The hand of Edmund Malloon, a youth of nineteen years old, born at Port Leicester, in Ireland, for his extraordinary stature shown publicly here in Oxford in 1684, which, though from the carpus to the end of the middle

finger it were twelve inches long, yet the palm was no more than five inches broad, *i. e.*, it fell as much short of Parsons' hand in the breadth as it exceeded it in length. Now the proportion of the stature of Edmund Malloon to this hand being as seven and a half to one that is being seven foot six inches high; thence we may rationally conclude that Parsons must also be thereabout."\*

Dr. William Musgrave, giving, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1698, an "Account of one Edmund Melloon or Malone, born at Port Leicester, in Ireland," says: "The measure of some of the parts of this Irishman, nineteen years of age, shown at Oxford, were communicated to me by Dr. Plot. He was seven feet six inches high, his finger six inches and three quarters long, the length of his span fourteen inches, of his eubit (the distance from the elbow to the finger-tips) two feet two inches, of his arm three feet two inches and a quarter, from the shoulder to the crown of his head eleven inches and three-quarters."

We conjecture that Malone was the giant who, at the age of nineteen years, was exhibited in 1684 at Southwark fair. This giant attended the Court of Charles II., who walked under his arm. He issued the following handbill: "The Gyant; or the Miracule of Nature. Being that so much admired young man, aged nineteen years last June, 1684. Born in Ireland, of such a prodigious height and bigness, and

\* *Vide* page 107.

every way proportionable, the like hath not been seen since the memory of man : he hath been several times shown at court, and his majesty was pleased to walk under his arm, and he is grown very much since, he now reaches ten foot and a half, fathoms near eight foot, spans fifteen inches ; and is believed to be as big as one of the giants in Guildhall. He is to be seen at the sign of the Catherine Wheel in Southwark fair. Vivat Rex.”

Subsequently he was at Bartholomew Fair, when he issued the following handbill : “*Miracula Naturæ* ; or, a Miracle of Nature. Being that much admired Gyant-like young man, aged twenty-three years last June ; born in Ireland, of such prodigious height and bigness, and every way proportionable, that the like hath not been seen in England in the memory of man. He was shown to his late and present majesty, and several of the nobility at court, five years ago ; and his late majesty was pleased to walk under his arm, and he is grown very much since. And it is generally thought, that if he lives three years more, and grows as he has done, he will be much bigger than any of those gyants we read of in story : for he now reaches with his hand three yards and a half ; spans fifteen inches : and is the admiration of all that sees him. He is to be seen at Cow Lane end in Bartholomew Fair, where his picture hangs out. Vivat Rex.”

A gigantic Turk was in the army which besieged Vienna in 1683. In the affray he was wounded and

made prisoner by the eitizens. The fathers of a Franeisean convent in the town, however, took care of him, and converted him to Christianity. In his convalescence Count Hunyady enlisted him as his Hayduk (an inferior kind of body-guard of the Hungarian nobles), and let him officiate as porter at his palae in Vienna.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1684-5 and 1700, Dr. Thomas Molyneux describes a prodigious human os frontis, or forehead bone, preserved in the school of medicine at Leyden. It was complete in every way, and its dimensions, measured by himself, were as follow: From its juncture with the nasal bones to the place where the suture sagittalis terminated, the convex way, nine inches and one-tenth; transversely from side to side, still measuring the convex way, twelve inches and two-tenths; and round the ambit of the coronal suture, from orbit to orbit, about twenty-one inches. It was about half an inch in thickness. Molyneux calculated that the head when entire was forty-four inches in circumference. He says he had measured the same bone in several ordinary skulls, according to all the above dimensions, and found that one with another they scarcely answered it in half proportion.

He refers to two drawings, one of which represented the common shape and size of an os frontis of a man of ordinary stature, convex or outside forwards; and the other depicted the gigantic forehead bone in the same posture with the former,



and drawn in exactly the same proportion. The measure round the ambit of the coronal suture of the first was ten inches and one-tenth, and of the second about twenty-one inches. Thus, the dimensions of the larger were more than double those of the smaller, “whence it follows that this great os frontis was above twice as large every way as a common bone of this sort in a full-grown man. And arguing from the proportion that the same bone in other men bears to their height, it must follow that the man to whom this os frontis belonged was more than twice the height that men usually are, according to the common course of nature. And setting down, as the most moderate computation, but five and a half feet for the height of a man, he to whom this bone belonged must have been more than eleven or twelve feet in height.”

Molyneux endeavoured to prove, by internal evidence and philosophical reasons, that the bone could not have been attached to an ordinary body; and he argued that, although it was so vastly large, it could not in the least be suspected to have appertained to any other animal than a man, it being complete in every way, and agreeing in all particulars with the common forehead bone of other men, excepting in its magnitude.

Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, on the authority of Dr. Browne’s *Travels through Germany*, tells us of Martin Wierski, a Poland, who at the age of forty-two years was presented as a rarity of nature

to Maximilian II., Emperor of Germany, in the second half of the sixteenth century, and who was full eight feet high. "And so was one of the Someries, Baron (and founder of the Priory) of Dudley, if we may believe either his statue or hollow of the stone chest in which his body lay, both which, as Mr. Erdeswick (*View of Staffordshire*) testifies, measured eight foot, than which had the body been anything shorter, it could not with conveniency have been laid there, considering how they anciently cut their stone coffins."

In 1686, Joseph, a negro, commonly called the Black Prince, who was brought up in the Clifton family, became a convert to the Christian faith. He grew to the stature of nearly seven feet, which height is marked in the church porch of Clifton, near Nottingham.

Dr. Robert Bigsby, in his exhaustive *History of Repton*, in Derbyshire, 1854, gives us an account of the discovery, in 1687, of an extraordinary grave in Allen's-close, Repton, which contained a skeleton nine feet long, within a stone coffin, with one hundred other skeletons round it. Dr. Simon Degge collected in the year 1729 as many facts relating to the event as he could, and subsequently communicated them to the Royal Society. The following particulars, derived from the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1734, relate to the discovery. Degge says that Thomas Walker, a labourer, eighty-eight years old, gave him this account :

“About forty years since, cutting hillocks near the surface, he met with an old stone wall; when, clearing further, he found it to be a square enclosure of fifteen feet. It had been covered; but the top was decayed and fallen in, being only supported by wooden joysts. In this he found a stone coffin; and, with difficulty removing the cover, saw the skeleton of a human body nine feet long, and round it one hundred skeletons of the ordinary size, laid with the feet pointing to the stone coffin. The head of the great skeleton he gave to Mr. Bowes, master of the free school. I enquired of his son, one of the present masters, concerning it; but it is lost; yet he says he remembers the skull in his father’s closet, and that he had often heard his father mention this gigantic corpse, and thinks that the skull was in proportion to a body of that stature. The bottom of this dormitory was covered with broad flat stones, and in the wall was a door-case, with steps to go down to it, whose entrance was forty yards nearer the church and river. The steps and stone were much worn. It is in a close on the north side of the church; and over this repository grows a sycamore tree, planted by the old man when he filled in the earth. The present owner will not suffer it to be opened, the lady of the manor having forbidden it. This was attested to us by several old persons who had seen and measured the skeleton.”

Dr. Bigsby adds: “This ancient sepulchre was again opened in 1787, when bones of a very gigantic

size, appertaining to numerous skeletons, were discovered, together with some remains of warlike instruments—as spear-heads, fragments of swords and battle-axes, all made of iron; but no stone coffin, and no skeleton nine feet long. The search was, perhaps, not sufficiently extensive to justify us in assuming that any degree of exaggeration had been used in the former account; or it may have happened that the skeleton and coffin had been removed.”

There is a tradition connecting this giant's grave with a legendary King Askew, of whom, however, nothing is known. A place called Askew Hill, near Repton, is associated with his name; and he figures as a nine-feet high hero of a romance which Dr. Bigsby introduces into his *Visions of the Times of Old*. An altar-tomb, supporting a figure in armour, now deposited in the crypt beneath the chancel of Repton Church, is popularly called the tomb of King Askew; but with evident misapprehension, as the armour is of a comparatively modern date.

In 1689 was published an engraving of James Hanson, who was eight feet high, with John Wormbergh, a dwarf, two feet seven inches in height.

Among the Sloane Mss., in the British Museum, is a volume of drawings of human prodigies, by James Paris. One represents a giantess, who was born in the Isle of Portrush, in the North of Ireland. She was, says Paris, twenty-three years old when he first saw her exhibited for money in

London, in 1696. She was seven feet high without her shoes and head-dress, very well-shaped and proportioned, and handsome in the face. In 1701 she was exhibited at Montpellier, in Languedoe, in France, at the time of the fair, where she was again seen by Paris. He says: "I not knowing she was the same I had seen five years before in London, and though I was something disguised by wearing a perriwig, which I did not wear before in London, she remembered me very well; she told me when and where she had seen me."

About this period was exhibited at his lodgings, at the Blue Boar's Head, in Fleet-street, near Water-lane, Prince Giolo, who is represented to have been of gigantie stature. He was reputed to be the son of the King of Moangis, or Giolo, and was called the "Painted Prince," his whole body, except his face, hands, and feet, being stained or tattooed in quaint designs; for instance, he had a representation of one quarter of the world upon and between his shoulders. At the age of thirty years he was graceful and well-proportioned in all his limbs, extremely modest and civil, neat and cleanly, and could not speak English. One of his lengthy handbills stated that he would visit the quality in a coach or chair, if desired. His portrait, engraved by Savage, was sold at his lodgings. His princedom was probably a fiction; and it is alleged that he was picked up by an adventurous captain about 1692, and made a show of afterwards under misrepresentations.



During the seventeenth century a giant named Hugh Hird lived in Troutbeck, Westmoreland. It is recorded in the parish church that he lived and was buried there. The *History of Westmoreland* contains accounts of his prodigious strength ; and among other things it is stated that he went on a mission to the king, being sent to London for that purpose by Lord Dacre.

At Burford House, Tenbury, Worcestershire, now the residence of Lord Northwick, is the staff of the strong and mighty yet most amiable Baron Burford, who, as tradition says, stood seven feet three inches high, without his shoes. On the handle of the staff, which is of iron, and of "classical antiquity," in the shape of a hammer, is this motto, "In my defence, God me defend." In the church of Burford is a monument to this giant, with his picture in a shroud, painted on a board. Nash, in his *Worcestershire*, 1799, says that the manor of Tenbury was in later ages sold by Mr. Hall to Edmund Cornwall, the tall Baron of Burford, lord paramount of Tenbury, and Lord Clifford. Nash also gives an extract from a manuscript of Mr. Habington, describing the character of this giant as follows: "He was in mind an emperor, from whom he descended ; in wit and stile so rare, to comprise in a few words, and that so clearly, such store of matter, as I scarce ever saw any to equal him, none to excel him. He was mighty of body, but very comely, and exceeded in strength all men of his age ;

for his own delight he had a dainty touch on the lute, and of such sweet harmony in his nature, as, if ever he offended any, were he never so poor, he was not friend with himself till he was friend with him again; he led a single life, and before his strength decayed, entered the gate of death."

In the seventeenth century there was at Barnsley Hall, Worcestershire, the reputed thigh-bone of a giant. It was clasped with iron, and locked on to the staircase. It was one foot two inches in circumference at the smallest part.

Burton, in his *Anatomy of Melancholy*, published in the seventeenth century, says that giants and dwarfs were among the ordinary domestic recreations of the people during the winter. They were, no doubt, mere artificial prodigies, effected in the one instance by stilts, and in the other by figures moved by boys.

## CHAPTER VII.

High German Woman—Tall Youth—Welsh Giant—High German Performer—Tall Black—Giant Fisherman—Large Bones at St. Alban's—Giants at Court of Electors of Brandenburg—King of Prussia's Giant Guards—Propagation of Giants—Giant Regiment in Russia—Tall Essex Woman—Bartholomew Fair—Strong Saxon Giant—Thomas Fisher—Giant's Hand—Henry Blacker, the British Giant—German Giant—Italian Giantess—Giant Boy—Giant at Rouen—at Paris—Large Bregma—Daniel Cajanus—Gigantic Boy of Willingham—Young Colossus—New Wells—Tall Saxon Woman with Dwarf—Living Colossus—Tall Woman—Giant Youth at Southwark Fair—Italian Giant—Giant's Bones found—Cornelius MacGrath—Bishop Berkeley said to have produced a Giant by feeding—James Macdonald—Charles Byrne, or O'Brien—his Advertisements—Endeavours to obtain his Body—Lawsuit relating to his lost Money.

ABOUT 1700 was exhibited in England a "High German woman," without hands or feet, who could sew, thread needles, spin fine threads, fire pistols, and perform other feats. The following is a copy of her handbill: "By his Majesty's authority. These are to give notice to all gentlemen and others, that here is newly come to this place a High German Woman, that has neither hands nor feet; yet she performs a hundred several things to admiration: viz. she sews, threads the needle, as quick as any one can with hands; cuts out gloves, writes very well, spins as fine thread as any woman can do; she charges and discharges either pistol or earbine,

as quick as any man can do ; she makes bone-lace of all sorts. Several other things might be mentioned, which, for brevity, is omitted. She has had the honour of shewing before this king and queen, and most of the nobility in the kingdom. And if any person of quality is desirous of seeing this prodigy of nature she will wait on them at their own houses. She is to be seen from eight in the morning to eight or nine at night. And is now to be seen at the sign of the ——.” The blank was left for the purpose of enabling the exhibitor to fill in in manuscript the name of any place where she might set up her peripatetic show.

In 1701 appeared the following handbill : “At the Sun, in Queen-street, in Cheapside. Is to be seen a wonderful and strange English man, who is seven foot four inches and an half in hight, being not as yet twenty years of age until November, 1701. His limbs are all proportionable to his tallness and years of growth : and hath not, as yet, been shown in publick. Vivat Rex.”

In the reign of Queen Anne, 1702-1714, was issued the following announcement : “A. R. By her Majesties authority. This is to give notice to all gentlemen, ladys, and others, that there is now to be seen in this place, a Tall Britain, born on a mountain near Llanriost ; from the age of sixteen years he has travelled abroad, and has been shown before all the foreign kings and princes in Christendom, and is now lately come into England, and had

the honour to have been shown before her present Majesty of Great Brittain, and her royal consort the Prince, to the great satisfaction of all spectators that have seen him, he being the tallest man that ever was show'd in this kingdom. He is to be seen by any one single person from 9 in the morning till 10 at night. Vivat Regina."

In the same queen's reign John Valerius, a high German, issued the following handbill. The Talbot Inn therein mentioned stood on the south side of the Strand, between Surrey-street and Somerset House; and the old Maypole was situated almost on the site of the present church of St. Mary-le-Strand. It was removed in 1713, and a new one was erected opposite Somerset House.

"By authority. At the Talbot Inn, near the May Pole, in the Strand, is now to be seen the High German Performer, born without arms. There is lately arrived, a person that was born without either arms or hands, and he does such miraculous performances with his feet, that the like was never known in the world. He hath been sent for by kings, princes, and dukes of several countries, and shews such things with his feet that nobody can do with both arms, hands and feet. He writes very fine with his mouth, right and left foot, without discerning which is the best, and five sorts of languages, and makes his own pens with a pen-knive, he walks upon his two great toes, and stands upon one toe, he lays his foot in his neck, and hops upon



the other, he stands upon the top of a little stool, and reaches a glass with his mouth, from under it, he threads a very fine and small needle, and sows very prettily, and all actions whatsoever is done by hands, he does with his feet, he combs or dresses a perriwig very well, shaves himself, dress and undresses himself, &c., and all with his feet. It is a strange and wonderful thing to the world, to see him put himself in a posture of defence, with a single rapier to fight. He darts a sword into a deal-board, he beats a drum, he charges a gun, or any manner of arms, and shoots at a mark, and jumping and vaulting is his master-piece, and what he does, nobody can do the like. He has also several inventions with glasses. It is impossible to express all. Vivat Regina."

About the same period was exhibited "The Tall Black, called the Indian King, who was betrayed on board of an English interloper, and barbarously abused on board of that ship, by one Waters and his men, and put in irons; from thence carried to Jamaica and sold there for a slave, and now redeem'd by a merchant in London; the like hath not been seen in England. Now to be seen at the Golden Lyon, near the Hospital-gate, in Smithfield, in his Indian garb, for 2d."

About 1712, died at the village of Lekerkerk, in Holland, a fisherman named Gerrit Bastiaansen, who was eight feet high, and weighed five hundred pounds, although he was very lean. The doors of his house were all made high for his convenience.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1712, W. Cheselden, a celebrated anatomist, describes the dimensions of some human bones of an extraordinary size, which were dug up near St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire. The circumference of the skull lengthwise was twenty-six inches, and its breadth twenty-three inches. The greatest diameter of each os innominatum was twelve inches. The left os femoris was twenty-four inches long, and the right one was twenty-three inches in length. Each tibia was twenty-four inches long. If all the parts bore a due proportion, this man must have been eight feet high. The bones were found near an urn, inscribed "Marcus Antoninus," on the site of a Roman camp.

Joachim, an Elector of Brandenburg, had at his court a man named Michael, who was eight feet high. Another Elector, Frederick I. of Prussia (born in 1657, died in 1713), had in his service a Swedish guardsman who was eight feet six inches high.

Dr. J. R. Foster, in his *Observations on a Voyage round the World*, makes some remarks about the propagation of giants, based upon the following facts: The King of Prussia had a corps of gigantic guards, consisting of the tallest men who could be drawn together from all quarters.

"They were mostly nervous six-foot fellows,  
All fit to make a Patagonian jealous."

A regiment of them was stationed during fifty years at Potsdam; and, says Foster, "a great number of

the present inhabitants of that place are of very high stature, which is more especially striking in the numerous gigantic figures of women. This certainly is owing to the connexions and intermarriages of those tall men with the females of that town."

The *Daily Post* for June 17th, 1732, tells us that at a review of the Prince's regiment at Berlin, during that month, his royal highness presented to his father, the King of Prussia, a man twenty years of age, seven feet six inches high, and extremely well proportioned. He was the tallest of all the King's regiment of Grand Grenadiers. The same newspaper for August 1st, 1733, says that about the middle of July in that year came to London an Irishman named Fitzgerald, who was seven feet high, and a lieutenant in the King of Prussia's Guards. News from Paris, dated August 26th, 1733, said that the King of Prussia, having been informed that there was a soldier of an extraordinary stature in the service of the King of France, in the regiment of Dragoons of Baufremont, caused an application to be made to the captain of the company in which this soldier was, desiring him to send the giant for enlistment in the Prussian regiment of Grand Grenadiers. The captain, having obtained the necessary permission from the King of France, caused the soldier to be handsomely clothed and equipped, and sent him to Berlin, where he was very kindly received by the King, who gave him a pension of one thousand livres tournois, and a thousand louis-d'ors

to his captain. The soldier was six feet nine inches high, very handsome, well-shaped, and of a good presence.

Voltaire says that Frederick William, King of Prussia, "armed with a huge sergeant's cane, marched forth every day to review his regiment of giants. These giants were his greatest delight, and the things for which he went to the heaviest expense. The men who stood in the first rank in this regiment were none of them less than seven feet high, and he sent to purchase them from the farthest parts of Europe to the borders of Asia. I have seen some of them since his death. The king, his son, who loved handsome not gigantic men, had given those I saw to the queen, his wife, to serve in quality of Heidukes. I remember that they accompanied the old state-coach which preceded the Marquis de Beauvau, who came to compliment the king, in the month of November, 1740. The late king, Frederick William, who had formerly sold all the magnificent furniture left by his father, never could find a purchaser for that enormous ungilded coach. The Heidukes who walked on each side to support it, in case it should fall, shook hands with each other over the roof."

On one occasion the ambassadors from England, France, and Spain were present at a review of the tall regiment by Frederick, who frequently paraded his gigantic guards before foreign ministers. He asked the three representatives whether an equal

number of their countrymen would engage with his monster soldiers. The ambassadors from France and Spain answered the question in the negative; but the English one replied that he could not assert that an equal number of his countrymen would beat them; however, he could affirm that half the number would try.

We are told that “le père du Grand Frédéric (Frederic the Great, the Second of Prussia, born in 1712, died in 1786) eut ce caprice, et l’on nous a montré dans le beau cabinet d’anatomie de Berlin le squelette de l’un de sept pieds.” Schreber, in his *History of Quadrupeds*, 1775, refers to a guard of the Duke of Brunswick-Hanover, who was in height eight feet six inches, Amsterdam measure; and to a giant porter of the Duke of Wurtemberg, in Germany, who was seven feet and a half high, Rhenish measure.

The taste for a regiment of tall men extended to Russia, for Byron, in his *Don Juan*, says :

“This fellow, being six foot high, could raise  
A kind of phantasy proportionate  
In the then sovereign of the Russian people,  
Who measured men as you would do a steeple.”

In the reign of George I. (1714-1727) was exhibited at the Rummier, in Three King-court, Fleet-street, a “wonderfull tall Essex woman, that had the honour to shew herself before their royal highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the royal family, last Bartholomew Fair,



with great applause. She is near seven feet high, and proportionable to her height, tho' not nineteen years of age. To be seen any hour from eleven in the morning till eight at night. Any family may see her at their own residences, by giving timely notice. Notice, her stay will be but short. Vivant Rex & Regina."

In the same king's reign, the following handbill was issued: "In Smithfeild, dureing the time of Bartholomew Fair; between Hosear Lane and the Swan Tavern, at the saddler's shop. Is to be seen a tall English man, eight foot high, but seventeen years of age. He was never shewn before. He is to be seen any hour of the day (at the place above mentioned) from 8 in the morning till 8 at night."

James Paris, in his manuscript book, now preserved in the British Museum, and to which we have before referred, gives a drawing of a giant, who was twenty-five years of age when Paris saw him in London, on May 12th, 1716; and was seven feet five inches high, and every way proportionable. He was born in Saxony, and travelled over Europe, visiting the courts. The King of the Romans presented him with a suit of armour proportionate to his size. He was seen by George I., the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the rest of the royal family, and the court, at Windsor. He was so strong that he could hold a ten-pound weight at arm's length for twelve minutes.

The writer adds to his account of the above-named giant the following: "I, James Paris, have seen also in London one Thomas Fisher, a young man of about twenty years of age, born at Medmenham, in the county of Bucks, who was upwards of seven foot high, and all his limbs of an equal but extraordinary size. I have also seen in London an Irishman, born near Dublin, who was seven foot and eleven inches high, without his shoes or anything upon his head. Each of his shoes weighed three pound and two ounces; and for a wager in my presence, I saw one of his shoes measured, which was a foot and three inches long, and ten inches wide. One of his shoes held two quarts of water, and about half a pint over."

The *Weekly Packet*, for December 21st-28th, 1717, tells us that "last week, near the new church at Rotherhithe, a stone coffin of a prodigious size was taken out of the ground, and in it the skeleton of a man ten foot long."

In 1721 was exhibited a so-called giant's hand, which was in fact the bones of the forefin of a porpoise, or small whale, which had been joined together by some Barnum of the period.

In 1724, was born near Cuckfield, in Sussex, Henry Blacker, commonly called the British Giant. In the year 1751, when he was twenty-seven years of age, he was publicly exhibited in London, and attracted large numbers of persons to see him. Many of the nobility visited him, and the celebrated tall

William, Duke of Cumberland, was one of his greatest admirers.

The *Daily Advertiser*, for December 9th, 1752, contains the following advertisement: "This is to acquaint the curious, that Mr. Blacker, the Modern Living Colossus, or Wonderful Giant, who has given universal satisfaction, is to be seen in a commodious room, in Half-Moon-court, joining to Ludgate. This phenomenon in nature hath already had the honour of being inspected by great numbers of the nobility and gentry, by many of the Royal Society, and several gentlemen and ladies, who are lovers of natural curiosities; who allow him to be of a stupendous height, and affirms him to be the best proportioned of his size they ever saw. He is to be seen by any number of persons, from nine in the morning till nine at night, without loss of time. Note.—Lost, last Tuesday night, between Norton Falgate and Ludgate, a boot. Whoever has found it, and will bring it to the above Mr. Blaeker, shall receive three shillings reward."

Blaeker was seven feet four inches high, and much better proportioned in person than the generality of giants. In 1751 was published a folio engraving of him, by H. Carpenter. Among the spectators represented is the Duke of Cumberland. Caulfield in his *Remarkable Persons*, 1819, gives Blaeker's full-length portrait in a room with four other persons, none of whom reach his shoulder. This engraving, which is outlined in the *Curiosities*

of *Biography*, 1845, is a copy of one published in the giant's lifetime, subscribed as follows: "Mr. Henry Blacker, the British Giant. Born near Cuckfield in Sussex 1724. He is thought by all who have view'd him, to be the tallest man ever exhibited in England, measuring 7 feet 4 inches and exceeds y<sup>e</sup> famous Mynheer Cajanus who was shewn with so much applause several years ago." A caricature of Blacker was published.

Somewhere about this period appeared the following handbill: "Advertisement. This is to give notice, to all gentlemen, ladies, and others; that there is lately arrived from Germany a very tall man, being seven foot and a half high; having been show'd before the Emperor of Germany, and eight Kings in Europe, and also to the Czar of Muscovy. There is also a tall woman lately arrived from Italy, being above seven foot high, and every way proportionable, weighing 425 pound weight; she hath also been shown before the Emperor of Germany, and the rest of the Princes of Christendom, to their wonderful admiration and satisfaction. Both these wonderful persons are to be seen every day, from ten in the morning till seven at night, at the sign of the Hercules's Pillars, at Charing Cross, next door but two to the famous Kaamas's."

The above-mentioned Italian giantess exhibited herself alone, as appears by the following handbill: "Advertisement. This is to give notice to all gentlemen and others, that there is lately arrived from

Italy, a tall woman, being above seven foot high, and every way proportionable, weighing 425 pound weight. She has been shown before the Emperor of Germany, and eight Kings in Europe, as also to the grand Czar of Museovy, to the wonderful admiration and satisfaction of him, and the rest of the great princies of Christendom. She is to be seen every day from ten in the morning till seven at night, (without any loss of time) at the Blew Boar and Green Tree in Fleet Street, next door where the Great Elephant is to be seen. Vivat Rex."

Probably the following handbill relates to the same woman: "The World's Wonder. This is to give notice to all persons of quality, and others, that there is to be seen a tall woman of seven foot and three inches high, weighs 415 l., whose like has not been seen in this age before; she has had the honour to be shown before seven kings in Europe; she is to be seen at any time of the day, as well to one person as twenty, at Mr. Franeis Struts, perfumer, at the Civet Cat, over against Exeter Exehange, in the Strand. Vivat Rex."

On Mareh 14th, 1729, was born Charles, the son of Richard Charlesworth, a carrier, at Longnor, in Staffordshire. At his birth he was under the common size; but he grew so amazingly fast, that by the time he was four years of age he was nearly four feet in height, and in strength, agility, and bulk was equal to a fine boy of twelve years old. At the age of five years he was four feet seven inches high,



weighed eighty-seven pounds, could with ease carry a man of fourteen stone weight, had hair on his body as a man, and every sign of puberty, and worked at his father's business. From this time, however, he gradually declined in strength and bulk; and at the age of seven years his vigour was gone, his body became totally emaciated, his eyes were sunk, his head was palsied, and he died with all the signs of extreme old age. Mr. Smith, a surgeon, of Longnor, wrote some account of him, and sent it to the Royal Society.

In 1735 a giant, eight feet some inches high, was exhibited in Rouen. In the same year a man six feet eight inches and eight lines high visited Paris. He was born in Finland upon the borders of South Lapland, in a little village called Torneo.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1740 is a paper upon a bregma of great magnitude in Wittsen's Museum at Amsterdam, with a problem to determine the size of the giant to whom it had belonged, according to the rules of the art of drawing, by James Theodore Klein, secretary to the Republic of Dantzic. The bregma was in height nine inches, and in breadth seven inches. Klein obtained a description and figure by Ruysch, representing the height of the head from the chin to the crown to be twenty inches, and the breadth at the temples twelve inches. He also obtained another bone of the same kind, the height of which was five inches and six-eighths, and its breadth five inches. With these materials before

him, and by taking eight lengths of the giant's head according to the rules of art, he determined that the giant's stature was thirteen feet four inches. But being desirous also to know the just proportion of the other bregma according to strict mathematical rules, Klein proposed the following problem to Dr. Henry Kühn, professor of mathematics at Dantzic: If in two human bodies of different stature the height of the bregma in the one be nine inches, the breadth seven inches, the height of the whole head twenty inches, and the breadth twelve inches; and in the other the height of the bregma five inches and three-quarters, and the breadth five inches; required to determine the height and breadth of the whole head of the latter, and the proportion of its stature to that of the former. The answer was, that the statures respectively were thirteen feet four inches, and nine feet, or one hundred and sixty inches and one hundred and eight inches; being to each other as forty to twenty-seven.

The *Daily Advertiser* for September 27th, 1742, contains the following advertisement of Daniel Caganus, the famous Swedish giant, who measured, according to some accounts, seven feet eight inches Rhenish, and, according to others, eight feet four inches, Swedish, in height: "This is to acquaint all gentlemen and ladies, that the Living Colossus, or wonderful giant (who has been these five weeks very dangerously ill of a fever, which has occasioned a report of his death) is now so well recovered as to

be able to shew himself to all gentlemen and ladies, who will be pleased to honour him with their company, at the same place, at the sign of the Mansion House and French Horn, between the Poultry and the Royal Exchange, at the usual price of 6*d.* each person, from the hour of nine in the morning till eight at night. This is really the same giant as has been shewn to great numbers of the nobility and gentry, notwithstanding the petty insinuations of some people (upon hearing of his recovery) to the contrary. Note.—The fictitious life of this giant, which has been publish'd, will be answered at a proper time."

The following advertisement in the *Daily Advertiser* for September 23d, 1742, announced the fictitious life above alluded to. It is probable that Cajanus published the work himself; and his mention of it was intended for a "puff oblique." "This day is published, price fourpence, finely bound, The History of Cajanus, the Swedish Giant, from his birth to the present time; who is now alive, and to be seen opposite the Mansion House, London. By the author of the Gigantick Histories. Printed for Thomas Boreman, Bookseller, in Guildhall, London," &c.

The following is a copy of one of this giant's handbills: "This is to acquaint gentlemen and ladies, that that prodigy of nature, the Living Colossus, or Wonderful Giant from Sweden, is now to be seen, at the Lottery Office, next door to the Green Man, Charing Cross. It is humbly presumed that of

all the natural curiosities which have been exhibited to the publick, nothing has appeared for many ages so extraordinary in its way as this surprising gentleman. He is near a foot taller than the late famous Saxon, or any person ever yet seen in Europe, large in proportion ; and all who have hitherto seen him declare, notwithstanding the prodigious accounts they had heard, that he far exceeds any idea they had fram'd of him."

It is said that the last upon which the shoes of Cajanus were made was fourteen inches and a half long, and that his coffin was nine feet seven inches in length. Dr. Bryan Robinson said, that Cajanus's pulse beat fifty-two times in a minute. He died at Haarlem, on February 28th, 1749.

The *Algemeen Handelsblad* of May 9th, 1860, tells us, that at a public sale which was held at Haarlem on the 5th of that month a slipper of this giant, and a shoe of the dwarf Simon Paap, were sold. The dwarf was twenty-eight inches high, that is about twice the length of the giant's foot. Two small marble stones on a pillar at the porch of the Brouwer's chapel in Haarlem Cathedral indicate the different sizes of these two human curiosities.

The following handbill seems to have relation to Cajanns ; but we are unable with certainty to connect him with it: "This is to give notice, to all persons of quality, and others, that there is to be seen at the Golden Ball, in Great Suffolk-street, near Charing Cross, a gentleman lately arrived from Holland ;

being the tallest person that ever was seen here before; being above eight feet high, and between seven and eight and twenty years of age. He is the son of a clergyman, and was born in Swedish Finland. N.B.—He is to be seen for two shillings and sixpence each person, at the house aforesaid, from ten o'clock in the morning till one, and from two till four in the afternoon."

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1745 appears an account of a giantie boy at Willingham, near Cambridge, by the Rev. Mr. Almon, the minister of the parish, and Thomas Dawkes, a surgeon, of Huntingdon. The mother of this boy had been a servant in Mr. Almon's family. He was her second child, and at his birth had something very extraordinary about him above other infants—particularly in *partibus generationis*—besides being uncommonly large in his whole body. He grew wonderfully for three-quarters of a year, having only the breast sustenance, when his mother died suddenly, and, as was supposed, by his drawing away her vital nourishment. After her death he continued to grow in proportion, and when only two years and eleven months old he was three feet nine inches high, and was in every part in like ratio. His strength and courage were such as to overcome boys seven or eight years of age; his voice was like a man's, and very coarse; his weight was above four stone; and he appeared to have as much understanding as a boy of five or six years old. He was so very strong



that he could take up and throw from him with much facility a blacksmith's hammer which weighed seventeen pounds. He had all the evidences of puberty in a marked degree. His father was a little man, and a labourer; and his mother was a woman of middle stature.

Subsequently another communication was made to the Royal Society on the subject of this boy, and subjoined were the affidavits and testimonials of the midwife, minister, churchwardens, and others, stating that this child, Thomas Hall, was born on October 31st, 1741. Between August 28th and November 30th, 1744, he grew two inches and a half: that is, from three feet eight inches and five-tenths to three feet eleven inches. A few years after the latter year Dawkes published separately his *Prodigium Willinghamense*, giving memoirs of the boy's life.

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, under date January 1745, and the heading of Cambridge, says: "There is to be seen here, from Willingham, a neighbouring village, a son of Thomas Hall, who, though but three years and two months old, is four foot high: his limbs nearly as large and strong as a man's, and his voice deeper than that of most men; in understanding not beyond children of that age, tho' as to all outward appearances he is nearly arrived to a state of manhood." He died as of extreme old age on September 3rd, 1747. He was then four feet six inches in height, and upwards of seven stone in weight. He presented a most piteous spectacle, having several bald places on his head, and his visage

and whole appearance being those of a decrepid old man, worn out with years. He in fact passed through the several stages of childhood, youth, manhood, and old age in a space of about seventy months. Of this strange precocity of nature we have given another example at page 24, which happened in the time of Vespasian; another at page 141: and Craterus, the brother of Antigonus, tells us that he knew one who in the space of seven years was an infant, a youth, a mature person, an old man, a husband, a father, and a corpse.

Hall was buried in the churchyard at Willingham, where a stone bears his epitaph in Latin, which in English runs thus: "Stop, traveller, and wondering know here buried lie the remains of Thomas, the son of Thomas and Margaret Hall: who not one year old had the signs of manhood; not three was almost four feet high; endued with uncommon strength, a just proportion of parts, and a stupendous voice; before six died as it were of an advanced age. He was born in this village October 31st, 1741; and in the same departed this life September 3d, 1747."

In the *Daily Advertiser* for February 23d, 1745, we find the following advertisement: "There is a young Colossus to be seen at the sign of the French Horn and Mansion House, opposite the Mansion House, being a boy fifteen years of age, seven feet high, and every way proportioned; born at Hurtfield, in Sussex; and allowed by several judges

to be a greater euriosity than the famous Sweede (Daniel Cajanus) that was shewn at the above place some time ago. He is to be seen any time, from ten in the morning till nine at night; and never was exhibited to publiek view before."

In the same year this young Colossus was exhibited at the New Wells, in Clerkenwell. The following advertisement in the *Daily Advertiser* for June 3d, 1745, introduced him to the frequenters of that place of amusement: "Whatever is in itself good will always make its way, although not ushered into the world with pompous paragraphs or pageant-like puffs. As an example of this truth the undertakers of the New Wells, near the London Spaw, beg leave to assure the town, since thronging audiences have been pleased to encourage their endeavours, they intend to double their pains, and hope for a continuance of favour. The god of wine and deity of wit have long gone hand-in-hand, and to keep them both alive the best way is to blend them; therefore, for the reeeption of the curious, they have provided the best of both their productions; and, as varieties in nature are as pleasing as those of art, the greatest that can now be shown is every evening to be seen at the Wells, viz. a young Colossus, who, though not 16, is seven feet four inches high, has drawn more company this season than was ever known before, and must convince the world that the aneient race of Britons is not extinct, but that we may yet hope to see a race of giant-like heroes."

In the same newspaper, for August 3d, 1745, we read: "The wonderful young Giant will perform on the rope this present Saturday, at the New Wells, near the London Spaw, Clerkenwell."

During the season of the year following, at the New Wells, according to an advertisement, for an interlude was "to be introduced the wonderful little Polander, who is allowed to be the greatest curiosity in the memory of man, being only two feet ten inches high, and sixty years of age, and in every way proportionable, and wears his beard after his own country's fashion. Also the tall Saxon woman, seven feet high, between whom and the Lilliputian Polander there is to be a country dance."

The *Daily Advertiser* for March 4th, 1751, contains the following advertisement: "The modern living Colossus, or wonderful giant, is to be seen at Mr. Squire's, peruke-maker, facing the Mews-walk within two doors of the Panopticon, Charing-cross, from ten in the morning till eight at night, at 1s. each person. This wonder in nature is thought by those who have already privately seen him, to be the tallest of the human species in Europe, large in proportion, and much superior in straightness to any one ever exhibited to publick view of an uncommon size; in short, he may be justly stil'd a phenomenon in nature."

The same newspaper, for January 10th, 1753, says: "This is to inform all gentlemen, ladies, and others, that there is come to this place, and to be

seen at the ehandler's shop, next door to the pastry-cook's, the eorner of Spring-gardens, Charing-eross, a surprising tall young woman, from the eounty of Surrey. She exceeds in stature (tho' not twenty years of age) all that ever yet appeared in publick, she being perfectly strait, well made, and has had the honour to be shewn before several persons of distinetion, with universal satisfaction, and may truly be said to be the wonder and admiration of the present age, being six foot seven inches and a half high. The prIEEE for gentlemen and ladies may be left to their own satisfaction, after they have seen her. She is to be seen from ten in the morning till eight at night."

The same newspaper for September 18th, 1754, says that there had " Just arrived from the mountains of Moran, a youth, seventeen years of age, of a surprising stature and beauty, and every way proportioned; and what is very extraordinary, always lived upon simples; never tasted a morsel of meat or eheese; his limbs and features are extremely neat in proportion to his size, whieh is full six feet six inches and a half; and is to be seen during Southwark fair, opposite Mr. Bence's booth. Note.—He will never be shewn after this fair, whieh begins this day, being absolutely obliged to go abroad."

In 1755 appeared the following handbill: "An Italian giant is arrived in this eity; he is eight feet high, and every way well-made and proportionable, and nineteen years of age; his equal has never been



seen, nor any come higher than his arm-pit. He has had the honour to be seen at several foreign courts with great applause. To be seen at the bottom of the Haymarket, next to the Princee Orange coffee-house, from ten in the morning till eight at night, and one shilling each person."

In 1756 appeared the following advertisement about the same person: "The Italian giant, a giant indeed! who, tho' but nineteen years of age, is eight feet high, and of admirable symmetry, is to be seen from ten in the morning till eight at night, at a commodious apartment, the bottom of Pall-mall, near the Haymarket. Price 1s. each person." In September of the same year a newspaper announced that "The Italian giant, who has been beheld with astonishment, as well in England as in most parts of Europe, will be exhibited during the time of Southwark fair, at 6*d.* each person; after which he will immediately set out for Ireland." This individual was Bernardo Gigli, whose whole-length portrait, when he was nineteen years of age, and eight feet high, was engraved by Fougeron, after Millington. Another print, rather smaller, also represents this giant.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1757, says: "During the course of this month, as some colliers were sinking a new pit on Gateshead Moor, near Newcastle, they found the entire skeleton of a man of a giantie size in a bed of stiff clay, about seven feet from the surface. Near the skeleton were

found three small pieces of very ancient coin. The person, when living, must have been near eight feet high; the bones laid compact, measuring seven feet eight inches, and must have lain there many hundred years."

The same magazine, for April, 1758, tells us that in the preceding month, "At a quarry near Fullwell-hills, near Sunderland, the skeleton of a man was found, measured nine feet and upwards." The *Annual Register* for the same year repeats this story; and in 1763 it says, that on Fullwell-hills, near Durham, in 1759, upon the removal of a ridge of limestone and rubbish in the lime-quarries, was found the skeleton of a human body, which measured nine feet six inches in length, the shin-bone measuring two feet three inches from the knee to the ankle. The head had teeth in it. This may be, and probably is, a mere repetition of the first fact, with a mistake in the year.

On May 20th, 1760, died at College Green, Dublin, Cornelius MacGrath, the giant. He was born of common country people, in the county of Tipperary, within five miles of the silver mines, in the year 1736. His parents were not remarkable for their stature, being of the medium size; nor were their other children taller than ordinary. In July, 1752, Cornelius, then about sixteen years of age, visited the city of Cork, where he was followed about the streets by crowds of people on account of his extraordinary size; for he then measured six feet

eight inches and three-quarters. In the preceding year he was much afflicted with violent pains in his limbs, for which he bathed in salt water as for rheumatism. However, they appeared to be growing-pains, for he grew from a little over five feet to the above-mentioned stature in the space of one year.

Dr. Berkeley, the Bishop of Cloyne, kept him at his house for a month or more, and was very kind to him, causing great care to be taken of him, until he recovered the proper use of his limbs. His hand was then as large as a middling-sized shoulder of mutton, which joint he could cover with that member. The last of his shoes, which he carried about with him, measured fifteen inches in length. He always ate and drank very moderately, his drink being chiefly eider, which he took only at his meals.

An account of MacGrath is given in the *London Magazine* for July, 1752. The *London Daily Advertiser*, of August 4th in that year, under the heading of Cork, July 24th, says: "There is now in this city one Cornelius Magrath, a boy of 15 years 11 months old, of a most gigantick stature, being exactly 7 feet 9 inches three quarters high" (these figures are incorrect), "he is clumsy made, talks boyish and simple, he came hither from Youghal, where he has been a year going into the salt water for rheumatic pains, which almost crippled him, which the physicians now say were growing-pains, for he is grown to the monstrous size he is of within these twelve months."

While he was at Cork, he was persuaded to exhibit himself in a show, and for that purpose he went to Bristol, and thence to London.

The *Daily Advertiser* for January 31st, 1753, contains the following advertisement: "Just arrived in this city, from Ireland, the youth, mentioned lately in the newspapers, as the most extraordinary production in nature. He is allowed by the nobility and gentry, who daily resort to see him, to have the most stupendous and gigantic form (altho' a boy), and is the only representation in the world of the antient and magnificent giants of that kingdom. He is seven feet three inches in height, without shoes. His wrist measures a quarter of a yard and an inch. He greatly surpasses Cajanus the Sweed, in the just proportion of his limbs; and is the truest and best proportioned figure ever seen. He was sixteen years of age the 10th of last March; and is to be seen at the Peacock, at Charing Cross, from eight in the morning, till ten at night."

He afterwards went to Paris, and to most of the great cities in Europe. John Bianchi, a physician and naturalist, at Florence, about 1757, wrote a small pamphlet concerning him, entitled *Lettere sopra una Gigante*. In March, 1760, MaeGrath retired to his native country in a very bad state of health, owing to an intermittent fever with which he had been first attacked in Flanders. His complexion was then miserably pale and sallow, his pulse very quick, beating nearly sixty times a minute, and his legs

were swollen. Upon his death, his body, which then measured seven feet eight inches, was dissected at Trinity College, in Dublin, where his skeleton is still well preserved.

In J. G. St. Hilaire's *Histoires des Anomalies*, 1832, it is stated, on the authority of Watkinson's *Philosophical Survey of Ireland*, 1777, and of newspapers of the year 1760, that Bishop Berkeley brought up MacGrath, an orphan child, on certain principles, and under a course of experimental feeding, with the view of producing a giant, and that he succeeded. But the truth appears to be, that the prelate's real principles were charity and humanity to a poor peasant lad, who had the misfortune to lose the use of his limbs through his abnormal growth. The *Annual Register* for 1760, in chronicling MacGrath's death, does not circulate the story of Dr. Berkeley's experiment in artificial giantology; but states the incident as we have given it above. Watkinson says: "The bishop had a strange fancy to know whether it was not in the power of art to increase the human stature. An unhappy orphan appeared to him a fit subject for trial. He made his essay according to his preconceived theory, whatever it might be; and the consequence was, that he (the orphan M'Grath) became seven feet high in his sixteenth year."

MacGrath's body was stolen by the students of Trinity College on the day on which he was to have been waked. This is said to have been the origin of



the feud between the students and the coal-porters of Dublin, which has continued to this day. He was a great friend of the students, and he used to raise by the collar of his coat and hold out at arm's length, for a long time, a small-sized student named Hare, who was father of the late Dr. Hare, F.T.C.D. Mr. Hare one day ran between MacGrath's legs, and he strained himself in recovering his balance, from which accident he failed in health, and ultimately died.

MacGrath's skeleton displays great size and prominence in the lower jaw, strength in the cervical vertebra, and a slight lateral curvature in the lumbar region. In other respects it is in good proportion. The following are its measurements: From the top of the head to the feet seven feet nine inches; humerus, one foot seven inches long; femur, two feet one inch long; sternum, eleven inches long; foot, twelve inches long, which is rather short for his size, and hardly consistent with the alleged length of the last of his shoes; chest, one foot eight inches across, and one foot four inches and a half deep; across from crest of ilium to that of the opposite side, one foot three inches; clavicle, eight inches and three-quarters long; from the end of fingers to wrist-joint, ten inches; ulna, fourteen inches and a half long; and leg, one foot eight inches and a quarter long. MacGrath's portrait has been engraved.

The *Annual Register* for 1760 records the death, in that year, of James MacDonald, near Cork, at the

age of one hundred and seventeen years, and the height of seven feet six inches. Early in life this man was exhibited for profit ; but this course obliged him to be much confined, and his health requiring a good deal of exercise he took to the less profitable but more active employment of a soldier, and enlisted as a grenadier. He served from the year 1685 until the rebellion. In 1716 he returned to his native country, where he was a day-labourer until within three years of his death. His eating and drinking, while his health continued, were more than proportionable to his height; for he could eat nearly four pounds of solid meat at each meal, and drink strong liquors in proportion, without being in the least intoxicated. His limbs were larger than his height required; and his hands and fingers were of such a prodigious size that a lady's braeelet might have served him for a ring. He died on August 20th, 1760, at about a mile distant from the city of Cork. His alleged age of one hundred and seventeen years is very doubtful; for giants rarely live to be old men, and still rarer to be centenarians; while dwarfs, on the contrary, often attain a venerable age.

About 1761 was born Charles Byrne, afterwards called O'Brien, the famous Irish giant. In August, 1780, he measured eight feet. In 1782 he had gained two inches; and after his death he was eight feet four inches in length. Not one of his relations was above the ordinary size. According to his advertisement in a newspaper of April 24th, 1782,

he first came to London on the 11th of that month:

“Irish Giant. To be seen this, and every day this week, in his large elegant room, at the cane-shop, next door to late Cox’s Museum, Spring Gardens, Mr. Byrne, the surprising Irish Giant, who is allowed to be the tallest man in the world; his height is eight feet two inches, and in full proportion accordingly; only 21 years of age. His stay will not be long in London, as he proposes shortly to visit the Continent. The nobility and gentry are requested to take notice, there was a man shewed himself for some time past at the top of the Haymarket, and Piccadilly, who advertised, and endeavoured to impose himself on the public for the Irish Giant; Mr. Byrne begs leave to assure them, it was an imposition, as he is the only Irish Giant, and never was in this metropolis before Thursday, the 11th inst. Hours of admittance every day, Sundays excepted, from 11 till 3, and from 5 till 8, at half-a-crown each person.”

That he attracted considerable attention is evidenced by the following paragraph in a newspaper of May 6th, 1782: “However striking a curiosity may be, there is generally some difficulty in engaging the attention of the public; but even this was not the case with the modern living Colossus, or wonderful Irish Giant; for no sooner was he arrived at an elegant apartment at the cane-shop, in Spring Garden-gate, next door to Cox’s Museum, than the curious of

all degrees resorted to see him, being sensible that a prodigy like this never made its appearance among us before : and the most penetrating have frankly declared, that neither the tongue of the most florid orator, or pen of the most ingenious writer, can sufficiently describe the elegance, symmetry, and proportion of this wonderful phenomenon in nature, and that all description must fall infinitely short of giving that satisfaction which may be obtained on a judicious inspection." In the same year the summer pantomime at the Haymarket Theatre was entitled, in reference to Byrne, " Harlequin Teague, or the Giant's Causeway."

A newspaper of August 12th, 1782, advertised : " Just arrived in London, and to be seen in an elegant apartment, at the cane-shop, in Spring Garden-gate, next door to the house late Cox's Museum, the Living Colossus, or wonderful Irish Giant, only 21 years of age, measures eight feet two inches high. This extraordinary young man has been seen by abundance of the nobility and gentry, likewise of the faculty, Royal Society, and other admirers of natural curiosities, who allow him to surpass anything of the same kind ever offered to the public. His address is singular and pleasing, his person truly shaped and proportioned to his height, and affords an agreeable surprize ; he excels the famous Maximilian Miller,\* born in 1674, shewn in London in 1733, and the late Swedish giant will scarce admit of com-

\* *Vide* p. 114.

parison. To enumerate every particular would be too tedious, let it suffice to say, that he is beyond what is set forth in ancient or modern history. The ingenious and judicious, who have honoured him with their company, have bestowed the greatest encomiums on him, and on their departure have expressed their approbation and satisfaction. In short, the sight of him is more than the mind can conceive, the tongue express, or pencil delineate, and stands without a parallel in this or any other country. 'Take him for all in all, we shall scarce look on his like again.'—*Shakespeare*. Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully informed that the hours of admittance are from eleven in the morning till four in the afternoon, and from six to seven in the evening every day, Sundays excepted. Admittance 2s. 6d."

In the same year, Byrne removed from Spring-gardens, as appears by the following advertisement: "Irish Giant. The Irish Giant embraces, in the most respectful manner, the earliest opportunity of acquainting the nobility, gentry, &c., that he is removed from the corner shop, Spring-gardens, to an elegant apartment at Mr. Mittenius's, confectioner, Charing-cross. This astonishing human production is but 22 years of age, and measures upwards of eight feet two inches high. Nor does that height (however extraordinary) afford less satisfaction to the virtuosi in general, than his amazing proportion to that stupendous size; a circumstance so seldom to be found in any extraordinary natural production,



this, or perhaps any other age can produce. Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully informed that the hours of admittance are from eleven to four, and six to seven, every day, Sunday excepted. Admittance 2s. 6d. each person."

He subsequently removed from Charing-cross to Piccadilly, as we learn from the following notice in a newspaper of November 29th, 1782: "Irish Giant. The Irish Giant embraces, in the most respectful manner, the earliest opportunity of acquainting the nobility, gentry, &c., that he has removed from Mr. Mittenius's, Charing-cross, to the sign of the Hampshire Hog, No. 1 Piccadilly, where he continues to be seen this and every day (Sundays excepted). This modern Colossus is but 22 years of age, measures upwards of eight feet two inches high, is well proportioned to his height, and is allowed by all who have seen him, to be the greatest natural curiosity ever seen in this or any other kingdom. Hours of admittance from eleven in the morning till four in the afternoon, and from six to seven at night. Admittance to ladies and gentlemen, 2s. 6d.; children and servants in livery, 1s. N.B. To prevent any misunderstanding, no person will be admitted for one shilling, except children and servants in livery."

In 1783, he removed to No. 12 Cockspur-street, as appears by the following advertisement: "Irish Giant. The Irish Giant respectfully informs the nobility, gentry, and public in general, that he has removed to an elegant apartment at Mr. Haynes's,

No. 12 Cockspur-street, where he is seen from 11 to 4, and 6 to 7, each day, Sunday excepted. This truly amazing phenomenon is indisputably the most extraordinary production of the human species ever beheld since the days of Goliath, as has been sufficiently demonstrated from the repeated approbation of numbers of the first characters in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as foreigners of the first distinction, from several of whom he has had the most pressing invitations to visit the continent. This astonishing Colossus is but 22 years of age, and measures upwards of eight feet two inches in height; nor does that size, however amazing, afford less satisfaction to the spectator, than his exact proportion in every respect. Admittance 1s."

Byrne died in June, 1783, in Cockspur-street, at the age of twenty-two years; and his death was said to have been hastened by excessive drinking, to which he was always addicted, but more particularly after the loss of almost all his property, which he had invested in two bank notes, one being for 700*l.* and the other for 70*l.* A newspaper of April 23d, 1783, says: "The Irish Giant a few evenings since, taking a lunar ramble, was tempted to visit the Black Horse, a little public-house facing the King's-mews; and before he returned to his own apartments, found himself a less man than he had been the beginning of the evening, by the loss of upwards of 700*l.* in bank notes, which had been taken out of his pocket."

In his last moments he requested, that after his

death his remains might be thrown into the sea, in order that his bones might not be obtained by the surgeons. The journalists of the time well satirised the members of the medical profession for their great anxiety to obtain Byrne's body. Thus, a newspaper of June 5th, 1783, says: "The whole tribe of surgeons put in a claim for the poor departed Irish Giant, and surrounded his house just as Greenland harpooners would an enormous whale. One of them has gone so far as to have a niche made for himself in the giant's coffin, in order to his being ready at hand, on the 'witching time of night, when churchyards yawn.'" Another newspaper, of June 13th, says: "Since the death of the Irish Giant, there have been more physical consultations held, than ever were convened to keep Harry the Eighth in existence. The object of these Æsculapian deliberations is to get the poor departed giant into their possession; for which purpose they wander after his remains from place to place, and mutter more fee, faw, fums than ever were breathed by the whole gigantic race, when they attempted to scale heaven and dethrone Jupiter!"

Another journalist on June 16th wrote: "So anxious are the surgeons to have possession of the Irish giant, that they have offered a ransom of 800 guineas to the undertakers. This sum being rejected they are determined to approach the churchyard by regular works, and terrier-like, unearth him!" A newspaper of June 18th says Byrne's "body was

shipped on board a vessel in the river last night in order to be conveyed to the Downs, where it is to be sunk in twenty fathom water : the body-hunters, however, are determined to pursue their valuable prey even in the profoundest depth of the aquatic regions ; and have therefore provided a pair of diving bells, with which they flatter themselves they shall be able to weigh hulk gigantic from its watery grave !” The *Annual Register* for 1783, referring to the statement that the body had been conveyed to the Downs, says that it has reason “to believe that this report is merely a tub thrown out to the whale.”

Byrne’s coffin was eight feet three inches long, two feet eight inches over the shoulders, and twenty-one inches deep inside.

It has been stated that Byrne was buried in St. Martin’s churchyard ; but his skeleton is now in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London ; the tradition being that the celebrated anatomist, William Hunter, gave 500*l.* or 800*l.* for his body. The skeleton is not so tall as Byrne is alleged to have been, it being ninety-two inches and three-quarters high ; and it shows that the owner was knock-kneed. The cranium presents the long and narrow form ; it is proportionately much depressed, and has a narrow, low, and retreating forehead. The bones generally are well proportioned to the extraordinary height of the individual, with the exception of the bones of the upper parts, which are relatively shorter than those of the lower.

In 1783 Byrne's portrait, engraved by Kay, was published at Edinburgh. Another portrait is at the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1845 his shoes were in the possession of a Mr. Thorne, who resided at Addleston, near Chertsey, in Surrey. Their enormous size made them look more like the large models displayed by tradesmen over their shops as signs, than the ordinary coverings of human feet.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1784 tells us that, on July 10th in that year, "a remarkable cause which was to have been tried at Guildhall was made up by compromise. It appeared that the late Mr. Byrne, the Irish giant, had been robbed of two bank-notes; one of 700*l.*, the other of 70*l.* That of 700*l.* was traced to Mr. Atkinson, who insisted that he had given value for it, viz. 400*l.* in cash, and 300*l.* in goods; but the executor to Byrne proving that notice had been given of the theft previous to his exchanging the notes, a compromise of 500*l.* was proposed and accepted, and each party paid their own costs." This settlement shows the incorrectness of a story which relates that Byrne, apprehensive of being robbed, concealed his bank-note for 700*l.* in his fireplace before going to bed at night; and that a servant lighting a fire there in the morning consumed the valuable document accidentally.



## CHAPTER VIII.

Patrick Cotter, or O'Brien—let to a Showman—described by his Barber—Irish Giant and Dwarf advertised—Cotter described as a Descendant of King Brien Boreau—Infant Giants—Gigantic Twin Brothers—Cotter at Sadler's Wells Theatre—his Advertisements—his Marriage—his Effect on a Hackney-coachman—The Man Mountain—Cotter with a Dwarf in his Pocket—compared with a Scotchman—Letter written by Cotter—Feat of Gallantry—critically described by a Surgeon—Nocturnal Walks—frightens a Highwayman—Cotter's Watch—Death and Burial—his Portraits—Irish Giants—A manufactured Irish Giant—Contracts with Giants—Large Skeletons found in Cornwall—at Ewelme—at Charterhouse—Tall Children at York—Edward Bamford—Huge Thigh-bones—Tall Man in Clerkenwell—Female Giant from Anspock—Swedish Giants—Herefordshire Colossus—Gigantic Boys—Lovelace Love—Swiss Giant—Giant and Fairy—John Ashley—Large Skeleton in Ireland—Elizabeth Fairman—Peruvian Giant—The Gentle Giantess of Oxford—James Toller—William Bradley.

ABOUT 1760 was born at Kinsale, in Ireland, of poor parents, whose stature was not above the common, Patrick Cotter, *alias* O'Brien, another celebrated giant. He was originally a bricklayer; but when only a youth he was, for his uncommon size, hired from his father by a speculative showman for three years at 50*l.* per annum. On his arrival at Bristol with his proprietor Cotter was underlet to another showman; but he refused to be exhibited without receiving some remuneration for himself besides his mere food, clothing, and lodging, stipulated for in the contract made with his father. The showman there-

upon incarcerated the young giant in a debtor's prison for a fictitious debt; but the circumstances becoming known to some benevolent person, he proved the contract made to be illegal, and caused Cotter to be liberated. For this act of charity Cotter manifested all his life a most lively sense of gratitude, and even mentioned his benefactor in his will.

At the time of his liberation he was about eighteen years of age, and his freedom occurring in September, he exhibited himself for his own profit at a fair then held at St. James's, and with such good success that he earned thirty pounds in three days. Byrne, the giant, under the name of O'Brien, had acquired so much fame, that Cotter, his successor, who commenced to exhibit himself shortly before Byrne's death, changed his name to that of O'Brien, the cognomen also of an Irish king, whose descendant he was alleged to be, as appears by a mendacious handbill, which announced his appearance in public.

Before he came to London he seems to have visited Northampton, as we gather from an article in the *Mirror* for 1826, written by a Northampton tonsor—the giant's hairdresser, in fact. He says: "It is now nearly forty years since this prodigy of nature first made his appearance in the town of Northampton. Like other great men, he occupied his travelling carriage, with this exception—that Mr. O'Brien's vehicle was certainly of a more lofty description. He then appeared to be in his seven-

teenth year, his features were regularly formed, his countenance remarkably healthful, and his standing position erect and commanding. The mildness of his temper was conspicuous, and he possessed intelligence of a superior order to that usually discovered by the individuals of the trade to which he was apprenticed—a bricklayer. His stature, eight feet seven inches and three-fourths, did not make him appear disproportionate; in every respect he was a well-made man. At that period Mr. O'Brien became the guest of Mr. Page, the respected landlord of the George Inn, near to the parish church of All Saints. During his residence at this hospitable inn, the honour devolved upon me to attend him in my official capacity of tonsor. After the exhibition of the day, and when the dwarfs of Northampton had retired to their cribs, this proud giant of the earth would take his morning walk, measuring with amazing strides the distance between the George Inn and Queen's-cross. Although I considered myself a clever pedestrian at that period of my life, I found myself under the necessity of changing my walk into a run, in order to bear him company. Mr. O'Brien expressed himself as being greatly refreshed by these short excursions; they enabled him to enjoy refreshing sleep when he retired to his beds—for the common bed of humanity would have been useless, and therefore he had two joined together. Equal courage was combined with his strength, and he possessed, in the fullest degree,

the warm temperament of an Irishman. An imper-  
tinent visitant excited his choler one day, during his  
residence here, by illiberal allusions to the land of  
his birth. The Philistine was sensible of the insult,  
seized the prig by the collar, held him out at arm's  
length, and gave him three or four mild agitations,  
something after the manner of Wallace the lion  
with the famous Billy, of rat-killing memory. It  
taught the 'gemman' to respect his superior. Mr.  
O'Brien was visited by an immense number of per-  
sons, who were astonished at his magnitude, and  
delighted by his manners. It is now upwards of  
thirty years since he last visited this place. His  
morning walk was then to some distance beyond  
King's Thorpe; but 'what a falling-off was there'  
in his pedestrianism! he seemed like a pillar shaken  
by the wind; his conversation, however, was still  
instructive and humorous. Mr. O'Brien enjoyed  
his early pipe, and the lamps of the town afforded  
him an easy method of lighting it. When at the  
door of Mr. Dent, in Bridge-street, he withdrew the  
cap of the lamp, whiffed his tobacco into a flame,  
and stalked away as if no uncommon event had  
taken place. This gentleman was certainly the  
greatest friend that ever honoured me by his pa-  
tronage. I have somewhere read of the danger of  
'taking a lion by the beard,' but I have taken a  
giant by the nose, and shorn his bristling crop;  
and, as a memento of his esteem, one of the iden-  
tical shoes that trod the pathway to Queen's-cross

has been suspended in my shop during a generation, whilst the giant frame and the mighty foot that was once its tenant having long since mouldered into common dust."

We are unable to fix the exact time when Cotter first visited London for exhibition; but he certainly was there in 1785, perhaps earlier; for a newspaper of June 20th, 1782, advertised an Irish giant, who perhaps was Cotter, although we incline to think that he was another person. The advertisement runs: "Just arrived from Ireland, and to be seen at the late bird-shop, the corner of the Haymarket and Piccadilly, the astonishing Irish giant, whose height surpasses the Patagonian; with admirable symmetry of body, and esteemed to be the most proportioned ever seen." The advertisement goes on to describe a female dwarf, twenty-two years old, and thirty-two inches high, who was exhibited at the same place; and it concludes as follows: "The nobility and gentry are hereby acquainted that their stay will be short, as they have the most pressing invitations to go to Paris."

A handbill of the same period invited the public to see "The great contrast. Just arrived from Ireland, and to be seen at the late bird-shop, the corner of the Haymarket & Piccadilly, the astonishing giant, or tall man, who has had the honour of being shewn to their majesties at Kew. This amazing phænomenon in nature has had the honour to be seen by a great number of nobility and gentry, many of



the Royal Society, and several ladies and gentlemen who are lovers of natural curiosities, who allow him to be of a stupenduous height, and esteemed to be the best proportioned of his size they ever saw. He has been seen with agreeable surprise by many persons of distinction from abroad, some foreign ministers, and by gentlemen from most countries in Europe, who have given him the most pressing invitations to exhibit in their respective courts." The bill then goes on to describe the female dwarf whom we have mentioned above.

In 1785 Cotter exhibited himself in St. James's-street, whence he issued the following advertisement: "No. 30, St. James's-street. Mr. O'Brien has the honour to present his respects to the nobility, gentry, and publick, whose patronage and protection he shall be proud to merit, that notwithstanding the innuendo which has been given out by the infant giants. Mr. O'Brien has no art to add to his stupendious height; he is bold to assure them, that he stands on his own feet without deception, and wears his own hair. He acknowledges he is only eight feet three inches and a half high; though Brien Boreau, the puissant ancient king of Ireland, his ancestor, was nine feet high, which he hopes to attain before he is of age, being now between eighteen and nineteen years old. To prevent an improper mixture of company the price of admission from eleven in the forenoon till four is 2s., from four till seven only 1s." Apart from the fiction of his relation-

ship to King Boreau, this advertisement contains a misstatement about his age; for he was certainly older than nineteen years when it appeared.

It is clear that Cotter made a sensation at the time; for in a newspaper of May 10th, 1785, appeared the following paragraph: "It seems as though we should have a war of the giants—the St. James's giant has called the other giants which are in town, the infant giants, as compared to himself, and positively asserts they can walk under his arm; if so, they will have but an unequal conflict; yet report says that a public challenge is expected to be exhibited for the amusement of the town."

The giants herein alluded to we think were two brothers named Knipe, each being seven feet two inches high. They issued in April, 1785, the following handbill: "Irish Giants. The most surprising gigantic twin brothers are just arrived in this metropolis, and to be seen at the Silk-dyer's, No. 2 Spring-gardens, Charing-cross. These wonderful Irish giants are but twenty-four years of age, and measure very near eight feet high. These extraordinary young men have had the honour to be seen by the gentlemen of the faculty, Royal Society, and other admirers of natural curiosity, who allowed them to surpass any thing of the same kind ever offered to the public. Their address is singular and pleasing, their persons truly shaped and proportionate to their height, and affords an agreeable surprise: they excell the famous Maximilian Miller, born in 1674, shewn in

London in 1733; and the late Sweedish giant will scarce admit of a comparison. To enumerate every particular, would be too tedious; let it suffice to say, that they are beyond what is set forth in ancient or modern history. The ingenious and judicious who have honoured them with their company have bestowed on them the most lavish encomiums, and on their departure have express'd their approbation and satisfaction. In short the sight of them is more than the mind can conceive, the tongue express, or pencil delineate, and stands without a parallel in this or any other country.

‘Take them for all and all, we shall scarce look on their  
like again.’

Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully informed that their hours of admittance are from eleven in the morning to three in the afternoon, and from five to eight in the evening, every day, Sundays excepted. Price of admission for ladies and gentlemen 2*s.* 6*d.* Tradesmen 1*s.* Servants in livery 6*d.*”

In July, 1785, Cotter appeared at Sadler's Wells, as we learn from a newspaper issued on the 7th of that month: “In the entertainment at Sadler's Wells is introduced the amazing Irish giant O'Brien, who measures eight feet four inches high; undoubtedly the tallest man ever in this kingdom. The juvenility of his countenance, and the affability of his manners render his appearance quite pleasing. The lady, in the piece, is obliged to ascend a flight of steps to salute him, and with great ease he shakes

hands with the spectators in the upper boxes; there is also in the same entertainment, a new species of fun and laughter, which is a singing duck, that joins the chorus of a song perfectly in time and tune." Later in the year, about September or October, he again visited the Wells, where he was announced among daneers, tumblers, and performing dogs as follows: "At Sadler's Wells, this evening, the wonderful Irish Giant, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, from the Strand, opposite Somerset House, the tallest man ever seen in this kingdom, who measures eight feet four inches high, will make his first appearance."

In the summer of 1785 Cotter removed from St. James's-street to the Strand. An advertisement in that year says: "The Irish giant, removed from No. 30 St. James's-street, to No. 333, facing Somerset House, Strand. To be seen from eleven in the morning till seven in the evening. Mr. O'Brien, of the kingdom of Ireland, indisputably the tallest man in this kingdom, a lineal descendant of the old puissant King Brien Boreau, and who has in his person and appearance all the similitude of that great and grand potentate. It is remarkable of this family, that however various the revolutions in point of fortune or alliance, the lineal descendants thereof have been favoured by providence with that original size and stature, which has been so peculiar to their family. The gentleman alluded to is between eighteen and nineteen years of age, and measures eight feet three inches and a half high. His family height is

nine feet, which he hopes to attain by the time he is of age. He is of an athletic make, a great exactness of proportion, high beyond all conception, and is justly allowed to be the greatest wonder of the age. Admittance only one shilling each. The nobility and gentry will please to observe, that a number of people go about to shew themselves as tall men, by various arts and deceptions; but Mr. O'Brien assures the publick the tallest man now exhibiting in this kingdom is not higher than his shoulder."

A newspaper of October 19th, 1786, informs us of Cotter's marriage: "O'Brien, who last winter exhibited his person in St. James's-street, was lately married at Paneras Church, to a young woman, of the name of Cave, who lived in Bolton-row, Piccadilly; she may now, for more reasons than one, without impropriety, be termed the Giant's Cave."

Another newspaper of June 13th, 1789, advertised as follows: "Lyceum, Strand. The celebrated Irish giant informs the nobility, gentry, and publick, that he is to be seen in commodious apartments, at the Lyceum, in the Strand, every day (Sundays excepted), from eleven in the morning, till nine in the evening. Mr. O'Brien, of the kingdom of Ireland, indisputably the tallest man ever shewn, is a lineal descendant of the old and puissant King Brien Boreau, and has, in person and appearance, all the similitude of that great and grand potentate. It is remarkable of this family, that however various the revolutions in point of fortune or alliance, the lineal descendants



thereof have been favoured by providence with that original size and stature, which have been so peculiar to their family. The gentleman alluded to measures eight feet four inches high. His family height is nine feet, which he hopes to attain by the time he is of age. He is of an athletic make ; a great exactness of proportion ; high, beyond all conception ; and justly allowed to be the greatest wonder of the age. Admittance one shilling. N.B. Ladies and gentlemen will please to observe that a number of people go about to shew themselves as tall men, by various arts and deceptions ; but Mr. O'Brien assures them that the tallest man in this kingdom is not higher than his shoulder."

A journal of June 17th, 1789, relates the following anecdote of Cotter : "O'Brien the Irish giant, having occasion to visit a friend the other night, entered a hackney-coach : the coachman did not see him go in, but on seeing him go out stood amazed ; having met a brother of the whip a few minutes after, he exclaimed, "—— me, but I have done more than you all, for I have just carried the Monument."

On the 17th of the following month Cotter advertised : "The Irish giant, or man mountain. Mr. O'Brien, the Irish giant, finds himself so highly honoured in the concourse of distinguished personages who have lately visited him at his apartments at the Lyceum, in the Strand, that he cannot in gratitude for so generous a countenance and protection, omit informing them, that he shall continue to exhibit

a few days longer, in order that such of them as have not yet seen him may have an opportunity previous to his departure from the metropolis."

Dr. Robert Bigsby tells us that his late father, at a masonic banquet held in a lodge in Parliament-street, Nottingham, about 1790-1792, saw Cotter draw from his coat pocket a dwarf, who was, as the doctor believes, Count Boruwlaski.

The *Mirror* for 1830 says: "Most English persons who visit Scotland as strangers are struck with the stature and proportions of the generality of its inhabitants, male and female; and those of our readers conversant with Edinburgh pleasantries will probably acknowledge both the justice and keenness of the satire which terms a certain *paré*, near a certain fashionable square, the 'Giant's Causeway.' However, we did not know till lately that Scotland had produced a rival to the celebrated O'Brien, of Irish birth. When that extraordinary man was, some years since, exhibiting, amongst other places, at Yarmouth, a Scotch gentleman of good family and large fortune, who was passing through the town at the time, sent a note to him, stating his height, and requesting an interview, quite privately, with O'Brien, as he did not and could not make of himself a public exhibition. They met the same evening at the hotel where O'Brien lodged; and upon measuring, the Scotch gentleman's height was found to exceed that of his brother giant of Erin by half an inch."

In 1799 Cotter was in Liverpool, whence he wrote to a friend at Bristol about the lease of some premises there. The original letter is now in the possession of Mr. John Bullock, of Sevenoaks, through whose kindness the author is able to give a copy of it. It is written on a whole sheet of foolscap paper, having the water-mark of 1798. It bears the Liverpool postal mark, and is plainly written in a large hand; but the composition and the strange use of capital letters clearly show that Cotter was an illiterate man. The epistle is directed outside to "Mr. Wm. Watts, High Street, Bristol;" and the inside runs as follows:

"Dr S

Liverpool, June 18, 99.

"This Day I Rece<sup>d</sup> yours If you think you Can get 28 or £30 a year for them Il Give you what you Ask for them And as you say there so pleasant I'll Advance £20 more. which will Be £330 But no Lease withought A little Advance. th money I'll pay as soon as the wrightings is drawn or before if you like I'm Ash<sup>d</sup> of Trobling you so, often abought them. I'll Wright no more. I thank you for A few lines by Return post Direct as before Mr Wilk<sup>n</sup> says H<sup>e</sup> send the stocking in three weeks. But they have been Three years coming so i Do not know what to think of him, from yours sinserley

"P O BRIEN."

A newspaper of 1800 says: "O'Brien, the Irish giant, yesterday returned to town, performed some

days ago an uncommon feat of gallantry. For a wager of 10*l.* he kissed, *en passant*, a young lady at a garret window."

His arrival in London, in 1804, was announced as follows: "Just arrived in town, and to be seen in a commodious room, at No. 11 Haymarket, nearly opposite the Opera House, the celebrated Irish giant, Mr. O'Brien, of the kingdom of Ireland, indisputably the tallest man ever shewn. He is a lineal descendant of the old puissant King Brien Boreau, and has in person and appearance all the similitude of that great and grand potentate. It is remarkable of this family, that however various the revolutions in point of fortune and alliance, the lineal descendants thereof have been favoured by Providence with the original size and stature which have been so peculiar to their family. The gentleman alluded to measures near nine feet high. Admittance, one shilling."

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1804 contains an account by W. Blair, a surgeon of the Lock Hospital, of a visit paid by him to Cotter. He says: "I visited this Irishman on the 5th of May, 1804, at No. 11 Haymarket. He was of very extraordinary stature, but not well-formed. As he would not suffer a minute examination to be made of his person, it is impossible to give any other than a very slight description of him. He declined the proposal of walking across the room, and I believe was afraid of discovering his extreme imbecility. He had the general aspect of a weak and unreflecting person,

with an uncommonly low forehead ; for, as near as I could ascertain, the space above his eyebrows in a perpendicular line to the top of his head did not exceed two inches. He told me his age was thirty-eight years, and that most of his ancestors by his mother's side were very large persons. The disproportionate size of his hands struck me with surprise ; and in this he seemed to make his principal boast. He refused to allow a cast to be made of his hand, and said 'it had been done many years ago ;' but as I have seen that cast at Mr. Bacon's, I am convinced the size is much too small to represent his present state of growth. All his joints were large, and perhaps rickety. His legs appeared swollen, misshapen, and I thought dropsical ; however, he did not like my touching them. The feet were clumsy, and concealed as much as possible by high shoes. His limbs were not very stout, especially his arms, and I judge that he had scarcely got the use of them ; for, in order to lift up his hand, he seemed obliged to swing the whole arm, as if he had no power of raising it by the action of the deltoid muscle. He certainly had a greater redundancy of bone than of muscle, and gave me the impression of a huge, overgrown, sickly boy, his voice being rather feeble as well as his bodily energies, and his age appearing under that which he affirmed. Indeed, I find he gave a different account of himself to different visitors. The state of his pulse agreed with the general appearance of his person,



viz. feeble, languid, and slow in its motions. With regard to his actual height, I felt anxious to detect the fallacy he held out of its being almost nine feet. Upon extending my arm to the utmost, I reached his eyebrow with my little finger. Allowing his height to have been two inches and a quarter above this, it could not be more in the whole than seven feet ten inches; so that I am persuaded the common opinion founded on the giant's own tale is greatly exaggerated."

Caulfield, writing in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, in 1804, says of Cotter: "About fifteen years since, during the time he was to be seen at Bartholomew Fair, he used frequently to walk about the streets, for the sake of air and exercise, at two or three o'clock in the morning. In one of these nocturnal excursions, it was my chance to overtake him; when he was accompanied by two genteel-looking men of the common size, on whose shoulders he supported himself in the same manner we sometimes see a well-grown man resting his hands on the shoulders of children of eight or ten years of age. . . . Mr. O'Brien is eight feet seven inches in height, and proportionably lusty; his hand, from the commencement of the palm to the end of the middle finger, measures twelve inches; and his face, from the chin to the top of his forehead, precisely the same; . . . his thumb is about the size of a moderate man's wrist; and his shoe is seventeen inches long. Upon the whole, Mr. O'Brien, though possessing every claim to our attention, on

account of his extraordinary magnitude, is not entitled to the denomination of a well-made man. His limbs, it is true, are not strikingly disproportioned; but his figure wants that general symmetry which more commonly distinguishes a man of ordinary dimensions. . . . . Among those with whom Mr. O'Brien is most familiar, he sometimes relates the following anecdote: Travelling in a carriage peculiarly adapted to his use, by sinking the foundation some feet, so as to hold his legs conveniently, he was stopped by a highwayman; putting his head forward to observe the cause that impeded his progress, the highwayman was struck with such a panic, that he clapped spurs to his horse and made a precipitate retreat. . . . . Mr. O'Brien is passionately fond of cards. . . . When not in London, he resides at a house in Essex, formerly the mansion of a noble family, but now converted into an inn. This place he has very properly pitched upon for his residence; being built in the ancient style, with very lofty doorways and apartments, it is particularly calculated for his reception. . . . The house is, at present, kept by a widow, for whom Mr. O'Brien is said to perform all transactions relative to the purchase or disposal of her horses."

F. C. H., a correspondent of *Notes and Queries* for May 18th, 1861, writing of Cotter, says: "I possess his gold watch, which is of unusual size, weighing a pound, with the chain and seals. It is a chronometer and repeater, and was made large and

suitable for him by Jamison. It has his name engraved on the cap, thus: '*Patrick Cotter, Kinsale, Ireland.*' The works are of extraordinary strength. I keep it going, and it keeps time as well as ever. I knew him a little in Bristol, and remember his exhibiting himself there, before he retired to the Hotwells, where he died. My father was very intimate with him, and often in his company, and purchased the watch at the sale after his death, which, some years before his own death, he presented to me. I knew other friends in Bristol who preserved things that had belonged to the giant as curiosities, such as one of his shoes and a pair of his stockings. He was of a mild disposition; his voice was weak, and his large frame by no means strong. He usually sat upon a table, and often rested his arm upon the top of a door. He could rarely venture to walk in public, and only ventured out in the streets on foot at night. Once in Bath, on a cold night, he terrified a watchman by quietly reaching up to a street lamp and taking off the cover to light his pipe. He retired with a considerable fortune, and kept a handsome carriage made purposely for him. He had a great dread of his body being taken up after his death, and gave particular directions for securing it in the grave. It was protected by iron bars, and arched over carefully with brickwork. A report having been spread some years after that the body had been snatched away, the grave was examined and found perfectly safe and unviolated. He lies in the entrance

of the Catholic chapel as described by Mr. Pryce, and was deposited underneath a flight of steps, which were removed afterwards to the opposite side." It seems that the watch above-mentioned was purchased after Cotter's death for seventy guineas.

By economy and prudence he realised out of the profits of his exhibitions of himself a competence, on which, about two years before his death, he retired to the Hotwells, Clifton, where he died on September 8th, 1806, at an advanced age for a giant—about forty-six years. He seems to have had less imbecility of mind than the generality of overgrown persons; but late in life he had all the weakness of body by which they are characterised. He walked with difficulty, and felt considerable pain when rising up or sitting down. The skeleton in the Hunterian Museum is sometimes incorrectly alleged to be that of Cotter, the confusion arising from the fact that both he and Byrne, whose skeleton is really there, took the name of O'Brien. A cast of Cotter's hand is in that museum. In the Bristol Philosophical Institution are his shoe, stocking, glove, walking-stick, lock of hair, and a cast of his hand; which were presented by Mr. Arthur Wells.

Cotter's height has been variously stated as seven feet ten inches; eight feet three inches, four inches, seven inches; and nearly nine feet. The extreme measurements given of him were, no doubt, mere showmen's exaggerations; and if the memorial tablet in the vestibule of the Roman Catholic chapel in

Trenchard-street, Bristol, may be believed, he was in fact about eight feet three inches high. It says: "Here lie the remains of Mr. Patrick Cotter O'Brien, a native of Kinsale, in the kingdom of Ireland. He was a man of gigantic stature, exceeding eight feet three inches in height, and proportionably large." But this inscription is inconsistent with that which was placed upon a brass-plate on his coffin, which ran as follows: "Patrick Cotter O'Brien, of Kinsale, Ireland, whose stature was 8 feet 1 inch. Died Sep. 18, 1806, aged 46 years." There were some emblems on it denoting that the deceased had belonged to the masonic order of Knights Templars.

A newspaper of September, 1806, announcing his death, says: "A gentleman had the curiosity on Thursday to attend, with many others, to see the stupendous coffin prepared for this remarkable personage by an undertaker of Bristol; and he informs us that its length is nine feet five inches, and that five men got into it with ease, and had the lid placed upon it."

A contemporary magazine says, that "in his last moments he was attended by Mr. Plowden, and departed without the smallest apparent pain or agony. He was buried on Saturday morning, in the Romish chapel, Trenchard-street, at the early hour of six, to prevent as much as possible a crowd; notwithstanding which, the street was immensely thronged; so much so that the assistance of the constables was



highly necessary and proper to keep the door, and resist the importunity of the public to behold the interment. It is supposed 2000 persons at least were present. The ceremony of high mass was performed at ten o'clock. The coffin, of lead, measured nine feet two inches in the clear, and the wooden case four inches more. It was three feet across the shoulders. No hearse could be procured sufficiently long, on which account that end of the coffin which could not be shut in was covered with black cloth. Fourteen men bore him from the hearse to the grave, into which he was let down with pulleys. To prevent any attempt to disturb his remains, of which he had the greatest horror, the grave was made twelve feet in the solid rock, and every precaution was taken to render abortive either force or stratagem: hence the anatomists are deprived of his body."

The same magazine also says: "He was unoffending and amiable in his manners to his friends and acquaintances, of whom he had latterly rather a large circle, and he was neither averse to a cheerful glass nor pleasant company. He had naturally good sense, and his mind not uncultivated. Mr. Cotter had at one time in his possession a regular journal of his life, written from day to day, for amusement, but which a whim of the moment induced him to commit to the flames, though he afterwards much regretted the circumstance."

In 1785 was published an engraving, by T. Smith, of Cotter, under his assumed name. In 1791 ap-

peared an engraving by Burt, representing him with Peter Davies, a dwarf. In 1803 Kay published his full-length portrait, inscribed: "Mr. O'Brien, the Irish Giant, the tallest man in the known world, being near nine feet high." He is represented resting his right elbow on the top of a room-door, while a comical-looking tailor is standing tiptoe on a chair measuring his left arm with a tape. The giant is very simple-looking in the face. He is also depicted in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, the engraving being by A. Van Assen, and dated 1804. Cotter is in this print also resting his right arm on a room-door.

A newspaper of December, 1823, announced in its obituary as follows: "Lately, at Kinsale, Ireland, aged 100 years, Mrs. M. Cotter, mother of the once celebrated Irish giant, P. Cotter O'Brien."

The success of Byrne and Cotter under the name of O'Brien seems to have raised up other Irish giants with the same appellation. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries* for June 15th, 1861, says, in reference to the so-called Irish giants who followed after the real ones, that he once saw at Stepney fair a black O'Brien, who was exhibited as an Irishman, and who was no other than the negro who is darkly alluded to in the *Old Curiosity Shop*, and who, after he ceased to attract in shows, was a well-known street character about the East-end of London. The writer adds: "I once saw a tall, lathy, overgrown, beardless lad called into a booth on Ham-common, and in

ten minutes after consenting to hire himself to the showman for the day he was transformed into a whiskered giant, in appearance at least a foot taller, and twenty stone heavier than before. So that actually his very mother and sisters who paid to see the *Irish* giant did not know him. One reason probably why showmen do not retain regular giants now is, that they do not sell for so much when dead as they used to do, the showman always stipulating when he hired a giant that he had the disposal of the latter's body in case of death. I have seen, and indeed can lay my hands on, an agreement between a showman and a giant, in which this stipulation is expressly recorded; and the document, which is a curiosity in its way, is written on the fly-leaf of a Bible, for the purpose of making it of a more sacred and binding character."

The *Annual Register* for 1761 tells us that in March of that year, as a miner was working at Tregoney, in Cornwall, in a new mine, he accidentally discovered a stone coffin, on which were some inscribed characters. Within it was the skeleton of a man of gigantic size, which, on the admission of the air, mouldered into dust. One tooth, two inches and a half long, and thick in proportion, remained whole. The length of the coffin was eleven feet three inches, and its depth was three feet nine inches.

The same work for 1763 tells us, under the date of January, that several human bones of a very gigantic size had then lately been dug up in the chancel

of the church of Ewelme, near the Duchess of Suffolk's tomb.

In May, 1763, while some workmen were digging a vault under the master's apartment in the Charterhouse, they discovered a perfect human skeleton, of a surprising length; the thigh-bone measured two feet two inches, and the other bones were in proportion.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1765, and the *Annual Register* for the same year, record that at that time there were in York a boy and girl, not quite seventeen years of age, who were twins, and of surprising stature, the former being seven feet three inches, and the latter seven feet two inches, in height.

In November, 1768, died, at the age of thirty-six years, Edward Bamford, the gigantic latter, of Shire-lane, Temple Bar, a native of Staffordshire. He was seven feet four or ten inches in height. It is said that two hundred pounds were offered for his body by the surgeons for dissection. He left a wife, who gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's death, and nearly lost her own life after the delivery in consequence of the great size of the child. A portrait of Bamford with Coan, the Norfolk dwarf, was engraved by Roberts in 1771.

In 1769 some thigh-bones, alleged to have belonged to prelates who had been buried in Ely Cathedral, were discovered there. They measured eighteen inches and upwards in length. The Rev. Mark

Noble says that Duke Birthnoth's thigh-bone measured twenty inches and a half in length.

In 1769 died the Duke of Hamilton, not fourteen years and a half old, and five feet eight inches high. His fast growth was said to have caused his death.

In the *Public Advertiser* for July 27th, 1770, it is recorded that "one of the most active, and perhaps the very largest, man in England is now living in Wood's-close, Clerkenwell; he is near twice as big as the late Duke of Cumberland."

In 1770 appeared the following advertisement: "The female giant, from Anspock in Germany (who has had the honour to be shewn with a most pleasing astonishment and approbation before all the royal family of France; she is but sixteen years of age, is extremely well-proportioned, and supposed to be the tallest person of her age in Europe, being near seven feet high), is to be seen from ten in the morning till eight in the evening, at the apartments in Arts Museum, in Cockspur-street (where the famous Corsican Fairy was shewn last year), at one shilling each. N.B. She will wait on any noble family at having two hours' notice, on their own terms, as she will agreeably exceed their expectations."

Schreber in his *History of Quadrupeds*, 1775, refers to a Swedish peasant who was eight Swedish feet in height. Elsewhere is described Gilly, a Swede, who was eight feet high, and was exhibited in a show.

On February 4th, 1777, was buried at Hendon



Edward Longmore, who was exhibited for several years as the Herefordshire Colossus, he measuring seven feet six inches in his coffin. The *Morning Post* for March 30th, 1777, says that his corpse was stolen about six weeks after its interment, notwithstanding that it was in a grave fifteen feet deep, which had been watched until nearly the time of the robbery.

On February 7th, 1779, was born a giantie boy, named Everitt, whose father was a mould-paper mark maker, employed at the paper-mills at Enfield, where his huge son was born. At the time of this child's birth he was not remarkably large; but at the age of eleven months he was three feet three inches in height, two feet six inches round the breast, three feet one inch round the loins, one foot nine inches round the thigh, eleven inches round the arm, and nine inches round the wrist. He was also of a prodigious weight, healthy, and good-tempered, and lived entirely on his mother's milk. When eleven months old his mother brought him to London, and exhibited him as a show, making a considerable sum of money by admitting the public at one shilling each person. She continued to exhibit him at various houses in different parts of the metropolis for about six months, when, finding that he alone was not sufficiently attractive, she joined with a dwarf; and both were for about six weeks to be seen at the New Inn, opposite St. Mary's church, in Bermondsey-street, Southwark. When these partner novelties had ceased to draw, Mrs. Everitt returned with her son to

her husband at Enfield, from which place he went to work at another part of the country; and nothing further is known of the child or of his parents. In January, 1780, was published an etched engraving of Mrs. Everitt and her son, by M. A. Rigg. This print was reproduced in Smeeton's *Biographia Curiosa*.

In 1780 an "Irish youth," seven feet ten inches in height, was exhibited at Charing-cross.

The *Annual Register* for 1784 says that in July of that year died at Brookhill, in Ireland, a gentleman named Lovelace Love, who was noted for his extraordinary bulk; he weighed upwards of forty stone; his coffin measured seven feet in length, four feet in width, and three feet and a half in depth. His death was occasioned by his immense corpulence.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1784 says that a Swiss, nine feet high, had then lately been shown at Vienna. He lived upon vegetables and milk.

The *European Magazine* for November, 1785, mentions a young Gloucestershire giant, who was the son of a Mr. Collett, of Upper Slaughter, near Stow-on-the-Wold, and was twelve years of age in April then last. He was five feet nine inches high, measured four feet one inch and a half round the waist, two feet nine inches round each thigh, and two feet four inches round the calf of his leg. He was very healthy, but so burdensome to himself that he was unable to raise himself from the ground.

A newspaper of June 11th, 1788, contains the following advertisement: "The wonderful giant

from abroad, who gave so much satisfaction in Germany, Holland, France, and many other countries, is just arrived in this metropolis. To be seen at No. 24 Charing-cross. Also to be seen at the same place, that wonderful production of nature, Miss Pinmont, the celebrated Fairy, 22 years of age, and but 34 inches high. Hours of admittance from ten o'clock in the morning till eight in the evening. Admittance, ladies and gentlemen, 1s. ; servants, 6d."

In July, 1790, died John Ashley, of Beech, near Newcastle, who was six feet five inches and a half high, measured three feet over his shoulders, and weighed nearly forty stone.

The *Annual Register* for 1790 tells us, that in July of that year was discovered in a peat bog at Donnadea, near the seat of Sir Fitzgerald Aylmer, baronet, the sepulchre of some Irish chieftain, at the depth of seventeen feet. In it was found a coffin, ten feet four inches in length, containing a skeleton eight feet two inches and a half long, with a spear, seven feet in length, by the side of it. The handle of this weapon mouldered away when exposed to the air and touched. The sepulchre was supposed to have been built and the coffin deposited within it before the introduction of Christianity into Ireland.

About June, 1791, died suddenly Elizabeth Fairman, who for several years kept one of the huts on Sydenham Common, in Kent. Her coffin was six feet nine inches long, three feet five inches broad, and two feet two inches deep, and was so completely

filled with her body that it was obliged to be pressed when serewed down.

The Peruvian Giant, Basilio Huaylas, who came in May, 1792, from the town of Joa to Lima, in South America, and publicly exhibited himself, was by birth an Indian, from the province of Castro Virreyna, and was then twenty-four years old. He measured upwards of seven Castilian feet two inches in height. The different parts of his body were not duly proportioned; from the waist upwards they were of prodigious dimensions; his head formed nearly one-third of his stature; his shoulders were five-sixths of an ell in breadth; and his arms were so long that when he stood upright the ends of his fingers reached to his knees. From the waist downwards his limbs were of much smaller dimensions. His right leg was an inch shorter than his left, owing, it was said, to a blow which he received in his youth. His portrait, dated 1815, is engraved in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, 1820. It was copied from an original painting, in which was a musician with a harp, placed beside the giant as a standard by which to judge of his extraordinary stature.

Charles Lamb, who was born in 1775, and died in 1834, wrote a pleasant paper upon "the Gentle Giantess." He says: "The Widow Blacket, of Oxford, is the largest female I ever had the pleasure of beholding. There may be her parallel upon the earth; but surely I never saw it. I take her to be lineally descended from the maid's aunt of Brain-

ford, who caused Master Ford such uneasiness . . . . I have passed many an agreeable holiday with her in her favourite park at Woodstock. She performs her part in these delightful ambulatory excursions by the aid of a portable garden-chair . . . . . Her delight at Oxford is in the public walks and gardens, where, when the weather is not too oppressive, she passeth much of her valuable time . . . . . With more than man's bulk, her humours and occupations are eminently feminine. She sighs,—being six foot high. She languisheth,—being two feet wide. She worketh slender sprigs upon the delicate muslin,—her fingers being capable of moulding a Colossus. She sippeth her wine out of her glass daintily,—her capacity being that of a tun of Heidelberg. She goeth mincingly with those feet of hers, whose solidity need not fear the black ox's pressure."

James Toller, who was called the Young English Giant, was born on August 28th, 1795, at St. Neot's, in Huntingdonshire. At the age of ten years he was upwards of five feet in height; at seventeen eight feet; and at eighteen he was over eight feet one inch and a half high, and measured from his foot to his knee twenty-six inches; each one of his feet was fifteen inches long, and his hands were in proportion. At the time of his death, which happened in February, 1819, he had gained the height of eight feet six inches. His two sisters were both of gigantic growth; one at the age of thirteen years was five feet eight inches and a half



high, and the other at the age of seven years was nearly five feet in height. The parents of this huge family were of the ordinary stature, as was also one of their sons. Toller's appetite was moderate, and only a little more than that of the generality of persons. His first public exhibition was in London in the autumn of 1815, when he was presented to the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia. In 1816 he was shown at No. 34 Piccadilly.

“To see him hundreds day by day did throng,  
As he from place to place did pass along ;  
His 'bode uncertain, for to think 'tis vain,  
One place so tall a wonder to contain.  
His whole proportion was upright and straight,  
'Twas eight foot fully and a half in height,  
Not much in debt to age, his body clean,  
Up to his stature, and not fat, nor lean.”

Toller's full length portrait, dated 1817, is engraved in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*. Another portrait of him, taken by R. Cruickshank, appears in the *Biographia Curiosa*, and is a faithful likeness. He was a pleasing, good-natured, country-looking lad. In Mr. Fillinham's collection was an original drawing of Toller, by Cooper.

In 1798 was born at Market Weighton, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, William Bradley, who at the age of nineteen years measured seven feet eight inches in height, and weighed twenty-seven stone (of fourteen pounds to the stone). An engraving of him was published in London on May 8th, 1811,

by Bradley and Gibson. He died about 1820. A cast of his hand is in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. In the same collection is also a cast of the hand of a Lapland giant.

In February, 1798, a peasant of the Bailwick of Psorzheim brought to Rastadt for exhibition his daughter, aged nineteen years, who was seven feet two inches in height, and weighed three hundred and fifty pounds.

## CHAPTER IX.

Jenkins, the tall Bank Clerk—Large bones at Vienna—Loushkin, the Russian Giant—Spanish Giant—Shaw, the Life-guardsmen—Epitaph on a Tall Soldier—Roger Byrne, Irish Giant—Big Sam, Prince of Wales's Porter—Tennyson—Phelim O'Tool—Skeleton at Old Ford—Thomas Bell, the Cambridge Giant—Joseph Scoles—Wild Giantess—Lincolnshire Giantess—Albert, the Giant—Mrs. Cooke—Devonshire Giant—Grimaldi and Giants—Robert Hales, the Norfolk Giant—Huge Coffin—Louis, the French Giant—Swiss Giantess—Peter Tychan—Giants at Bartholomew Fair—Manchester Gigantic Boy—Somersetshire Giantess—American Giantess—Cromach—Long Lawyer—Huge Skeleton—Giantess<sup>1</sup> at St. Bees—Giant at Petersburg—Susannah Boyd—Giants at Bartholomew Fair—Giant at Parma—Giant at Adelphi Theatre—Lapland Giantess—Freeman, the American Giant—Giant and Dwarf at Olympic Theatre—Murphy, the Irish Giant—Sir W. H. Don—French Giant—Patrick Glynn—Giant's Skeleton—Joseph Brice, the French Giant—Gigantic men seen by him—Polish Giantess—Corporal Moffatt—Barnum's Giants—Giant City—Chinese Giants—Chang—British Giant—Tall Italian—Giant Policeman—Tall Prizefighter—Story of Giant and Dwarf—Proverb—Sundry Giants.

IN April, 1798, died of a decline, at the age of thirty-one, Mr. Jenkins, a clerk in the Bank of England, who was remarkable for his height. He was buried very early in the morning, by permission of the governors of the Bank, in the ground within that building, which was formerly the burial-yard of St. Christopher's church. The outer coffin measured more than eight feet in length. The *Annual Register* says, that upwards of two hundred

guineas was offered for the corpse by some surgeons. He seems to have had a horror of being dissected, and therefore he was interred in a safe place.

In the latter half of the eighteenth century a burying-place surrounding St. Stephen's Cathedral at Vienna was cleared out, and among the bones were found a large os innominatum, femur, and tibia, which, upon being compared with similar bones of an ordinary size, indicated that they had belonged to a young man above eight feet six inches in height. They are preserved in the Anatomical Museum at Vienna.

At Madame Tussaud's exhibition is a figure of Loushkin, the Russian giant, dressed in his military costume as drum-major of the imperial regiment of guards, Préobrajenský. He measured eight feet five inches high. At the same place are casts of his thigh-bone and tibia, the former being twenty-six inches, and the latter twenty-two inches long; and also a model of his hand.

In the first half of the present century a Spanish giant named Joachim Eleizegue, from the Basque Provinces, who was seven feet six or ten inches high, was exhibited at the Cosmorama Rooms, in Regent-street. Possibly he is identical with Joquin Eleiegni, a Spaniard, of whom Puttieks sold by auction in April, 1856, a Ms. account, written by himself, dated May 8th, 1850, and stating he was born in 1826, was seven feet two inches high, weighed four hundred and twenty-five pounds, and, notwithstanding his secluded life, always had a good appetite.

John Shaw, the huge Life-guardsman, was born at Wollaston, in Nottinghamshire. He was educated at Trowell Moor school, and was afterwards apprenticed to William Wild, of Old Radford, a joiner and cabinet-maker. Hence he enlisted into the Life-guards. His father, William Shaw, and family, removed from Wollaston to a farm at Cossall, where John, when on leave of absence from his regiment, used to give lessons in pugilism to several young gentlemen and others in the neighbourhood. He had a brother named William, who lived at Stapleford, and three or four sisters, our hero being the youngest of the family. In the *Scouring of the White Horse*, under the date of 1808, it is related that "Two men, with very shiny top-boots, quite gentlemen, from London, won the prize for back-sword play; one of which gentlemen was Shaw, the Life-guardsman." He died at Waterloo, after killing many cuirassiers. He had a rival on the battle-field, as we gather from the following epitaph at Edinburgh :

" John McPherson  
Was a wonderful person ;  
He was six feet two  
Without his shoe ;  
And he was slew  
At Waterloo."

About 1804, the remains of the largest person ever known in Ireland since the days of Phil Macoul, the famous Irish giant, were buried in the churchyard of Rosennallis, in the Queen's County. The coffin with



its contents weighed fifty-two stone. It was borne on a very long bier by thirty strong men, who were relieved at intervals. The name of this extraordinary person was Roger Byrne. He lived at or near Borros, in Ossory; and is reported to have died, at the age of fifty-four years, from suffocation, occasioned by excessive fatness that stopped the play of his lungs. He was a married man, and his widow was a very small woman, by whom he left four sons, the eldest of whom was not seven years old at the time of his father's death.

Samuel M'Donald, commonly called Big Sam, from his immense stature, was born at Lairg, in Sutherlandshire; and during the latter part of the American war he was a private in the Sutherland Fencibles. He afterwards entered the Royals, in which regiment he became fogleman. While he was thus employed he attracted the notice of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., who made him lodge-porter at Carlton House, where he used to look over the gates. After having held this office for about two years he resigned it, and again entered the Sutherland Fencibles, in which he was then appointed a sergeant. He was according to some six feet ten inches, and according to others nearly eight feet high; he measured four feet round the chest, and was stout and muscular in proportion. He had an exceedingly clear and sonorous voice. He was bland in his manners and deportment, very good-natured, and he ac-

quitted himself in his duties so well as to obtain general esteem.

In consequence of his great height he always marched at the head of his regiment when in column, and on these occasions he was accompanied by a huge mountain deer. While in the service of the Prince of Wales, he, in order to oblige his master, appeared once as Hercules, in the play of *Cymon and Iphigenia*, at the Opera House, in the Haymarket, while the Drury Lane Company had the use of that theatre until their own was rebuilt in 1809. He was sometimes called the Scottish Hercules. Kay, in his *Edinburgh Portraits*, says, that when Sam was in London he was advised to show himself for money; but he declined to do so in his own name. He, however, dressed in female attire, and advertised himself for exhibition as "the remarkably tall woman." By this expedient he became so well furnished with cash, that his expenditure attracted the notice of his colonel, who interrogated him on the subject, and ascertained the hitherto secret fact.

As a proof of his great strength it is related that he was one day challenged by two soldiers, on the understanding that he was to fight both at once. Sam reluctantly agreed; but he said that as he had had no quarrel, he should like to shake hands with them before he began the combat. One of them thereupon held out his hand, which Sam seized; but instead of giving it the expected friendly shake, he used it as a means to raise its owner from the

ground, and then swung him round and threw him to a great distance. The other combatant immediately took to his heels. On another occasion, in the barraek-room, one of the men requested him to hand down a loaf from a shelf which was beyond his own reach. Sam immediately caught the man by the neck, and, holding him at arm's length, told him to take the article down himself. The Countess of Sutherland allowed Sam half-a-crown a day, as she did not consider his pay sufficient for his bodily wants. He died while with his regiment in Guernsey.

Charles Knight, in his *English Cyclopædia*, says, that the Rev. Dr. George Clayton Tennyson, the rector of Somersby, in Lincolnshire, and the father of the present Laureate, who was born in 1810, was remarkable for his great strength and stature.

Mr. J. B. Anquetil, a friend of the author, tells him that about 1811 he saw exhibited, in a room at Brentford, a giant named Richardson, who was between seven and eight feet high. He stood up on that occasion in a long blue cloak, and held his arm out straight to enable Mr. Anquetil's father to pass under it.

In July, 1817, some labourers found in Leixlip churchyard an extraordinarily gigantic human skeleton. It appeared to have belonged to a man not less than ten feet high, and was believed to be the same as that mentioned by Keating, namely, that of Phelim O'Tool, who was buried in the same churchyard,

near the salmon-leap, about one thousand three hundred years ago. In the same place was found a large finger-ring of pure gold. One of the teeth was as large as an ordinary forefinger.

In March, 1813, was found at King John's Palace, Old Ford, a stone coffin containing the remains of a skeleton, which, from the length of the thigh-bone, must have belonged to a person nearly seven feet long. A stone coffin in Devonshire contained a thigh-bone belonging to a man eight feet nine inches high.

In May, 1813, was to be seen at the Hog in the Pound, in Oxford-street, Thomas Bell, the Cambridge giant, who was then thirty-six years of age, and seven feet two inches high. His parents were of the common size, and he himself when young exhibited no indications of attaining his after dimensions. His father, like his predecessors for several generations, followed the trade of a blacksmith; and his son being destined for the same occupation was apprenticed to him. But his unexpected growth attracted such numbers of curious and inquisitive persons, as to cause an interruption in his business, which he therefore relinquished, and afterwards travelled about the country, exhibiting himself at the principal towns and fairs in England. His hands were eleven inches in length, his middle fingers were six inches long, and his feet and all the other members of his body were of the like proportions. He considered himself to be double-jointed, and in his

handbills described himself as such. His full-length portrait, in a collegiate gown and knee-breeches, is given in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, and bears date 1813.

In March, 1814, died, after a short illness, at the age of fifty-seven years, Joseph Scoles, a hatter, of Oldham, who was a man of gigantic stature and strength, and weighed thirty-seven stone. His coffin measured two yards six inches in length, and nearly three yards in girth. The body, coffin, and bier weighed twenty-six score pounds. Scoles was very symmetrical in shape.

The *Champion* of January 8th, 1815, quoting the *Gazette de France*, says: "One of our correspondents writes us, that within the last few days there has been seen in the forest of Galincs, near Valencas, a woman of a gigantic stature and an agreeable countenance, absolutely naked, and covered by her hair, which is extraordinarily long. This woman, who was supposed to be mad, did not articulate any word, and testified much fear. Inquiries are making concerning her."

In July, 1815, died, at Rippendale, Lincolnshire, Ann Hardy, aged sixteen years, and seven feet two inches high. Her coffin measured seven feet and a half in length, and two feet seven inches across the shoulders. She was exhibited at fairs, where she attracted much attention. Her parents were of the ordinary stature.

A few years before 1816, a gentlewoman who was seven feet five inches high was living in England. She died at about the age of twenty-seven years.



In 1818 was exhibited at the Gothie Hall, Pall Mall, the armour of Albert, the giant, who was nearly seven feet high.

In the same year was exhibited in London a giantess named Mrs. Cooke, who was born at Merriott, in Somersetshire, and completed her seventeenth year on October 1st, 1817. She was nearly seven feet high, was remarkably stout, and well-proportioned, had a pleasing and interesting countenance, and, as her exhibition bill stated, was "allowed by all visitors to be the tallest, largest, and strongest woman in the world." On April 15th, 1818, she was exhibited at the Earl of Yarmouth's, in Seymour-place, May-fair, when the Prince Regent, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, and other members of the royal family, and about one hundred of the nobility, attended to see her.

The *Morning Post* of February 8th, 1819, contains the following advertisement: "That Phenomenon, the unequalled Devonshire Giant, or British Colossus, who has had the pleasure of being visited by so numerous and generous a public, to whom he has given perfect satisfaction. They all allow him to be the finest man ever exhibited in London, for which he returns his sincere thanks, and informs them that he has left Pall Mall, and is now exhibiting in an elegant room, at No. 194, Strand, opposite St. Clement's Church, every day from ten o'clock in the morning until eight in the evening. Admission to

ladies and gentlemen 1s. Servants and children half price."

"Boz," in his *Memoirs of Grimaldi*, tells us, that in 1820 that merry clown visited Dublin, where he performed in the Pavilion Theatre. This building was ill adapted for dramatic representations, and very small, and the company "were so pressed for want of space, that when 'Harlequin Gulliver' was in preparation they were at a loss where to put the Brobdignagians. These figures were so very cumbersome and so much in the way, that the men who sustained the parts were at last obliged to be dressed and put away in an obscure corner before the curtain was raised, whence they were brought forward when wanted upon the stage, and into which they were obliged to retreat when they had no more to do, and to remain there as quietly as they could, until the pantomime was over, there being actually no room to get them out of their cases. The dresses and makings-up were very cumbersome and inconvenient; but as no other mode of proceeding presented itself, the unfortunate giants were obliged to make the best of a bad bargain, and to remain in a great state of perspiration and fatigue until they could be reduced to the level of ordinary men. Grimaldi pitied the poor fellows so much that, after the first night's performance was over, he thought it right to represent to them that no relief could be afforded, and to ask whether they could make up their minds to endure so much labour for the future. 'Well then,' said the spokesman of the

party, 'we have talked it over together, and we have agreed to do it every night, if your honour—long life to you!—will only promise to do one thing for us; and that is, just to let us have a leetle noggin of whisky after the green rag comes down.' This moderate request was readily complied with, and the giants behaved themselves exceedingly well, and never got drunk."

Robert Hales, the Norfolk giant, was born on May 2d, 1820, at Somerton, near Great Yarmouth. His father, a respectable farmer, was six feet six inches in height, and married Elizabeth Dimond, of the same neighbourhood, who was six feet in height, and weighed fourteen stone. Her family consisted of five daughters and four sons, all of whom attained an extraordinary stature, the males averaging six feet five inches in height, and the females six feet three inches and a half. The height and weight of Robert Hales were as follow: height, seven feet six inches; weight, thirty-three stone of fourteen pounds to the stone; measurement round the chest, sixty-two inches; round the abdomen, sixty-four inches; across the shoulders, thirty-six inches; round the thigh, thirty-six inches; round the calf of the leg, twenty-one inches.

In 1848, Hales sailed on board the royal mail steamer "Canada" across the Atlantic; and after one of the most boisterous and dangerous passages ever made, he arrived in New York on December 14th in that year. He remained in America two years,

during which time he excited much curiosity there.

In January, 1851, he returned to England, and took the Craven Head tavern, in Drury-lane. On April 11th he was introduced to her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, and six of the royal children, at Buckingham Palace.

He was a cheerful and well-informed man, and had none of the unwieldiness for which persons of high stature are sometimes remarkable. We saw him on the jetty at Great Yarmouth, in the autumn of 1863, at which time he was in bad health; and shortly afterwards he died, we believe of consumption.

About 1821 was issued an engraving, subscribed as follows: "Miss Angelina Melius, the celebrated Giantess, from the United States, nineteen years of age, and nearly seven feet high, attended by her page, Señor Don Santiago de los Santos, from the island of Manilla, thirty-five years of age, and two feet two inches high." It represents the couple in most unjust proportions. The dwarf is holding up the train of the giantess, who wears a hat with a large feather and jewel, long ear-rings, a bead necklace twisted four times round her throat, with a miniature pendant; a waist-belt, cord, and tassels, in which are tucked a watch, chain, and seals; bracelets, rings on both hands, a fan, sandalled shoes, and a highly ornamented train, under-skirt, and petticoat. She is good-looking and symmetrical.

The *History of Clerkenwell*, by Pinks and Wood,

records that in the vaults of St. James's church, in that parish, on the south side, near the entrance, was a coffin of enormous bulk, which contained the remains of one Sinnot, a dust-contraetor, who died in 1822. The outer coffin was about eight feet in length, three in width, and two in depth.

In 1822 appeared the following advertisement: "French Giant, No. 22, New Bond-street. Those ladies and gentlemen who have not yet honoured this extraordinary young man with a visit, are most respectfully informed that he continues to attraet the attention of the nobility and gentry, who express the highest gratifieation. The flattering marks of approbation continually lavished on him eall forth his warmest thanks. He measures seven feet four inehes, is perfectly straight and well-proportioned, and twenty-two years of age. Admittanee, 1s."

We believe this person was Louis, or Louis Frenz, a Frenchman, who we are told was in London in 1829. He stated that his reason for exhibiting himself partieuularly in England was that he might make a fortune there, and return to France to enjoy it. Louis was seven feet four or six inehes high. A cast of his hand is in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. His portrait has been engraved. He was said to have had two sisters nearly as tall as, and a brother taller than himself.

"Each man an Askapart, of strength to toss  
For quoits both Temple-bar and Charing-cross."

In 1824 appeared the following announcement:



“Fair Circassian. When the Fair Circassian was in London a few years ago, her house was besieged daily, and vast sums would have been given for a peep at her; but since the arrival of the Swiss Giantess, at No. 63, Piccadilly, opposite St. James’s-street, who is universally allowed to be one of the finest and most beautifully-proportioned women in Europe, all the world are crowding to see her, and it is computed that upwards of three hundred persons visit her daily, among whom are the most distinguished families now in town (including even royalty itself).”

The same giantess advertised in the *Morning Herald* of April 16th, 1824, as follows: “A fine woman. The public are most respectfully cautioned against the imposition of a person now travelling about London in a caravan, calling him or herself the Swiss Giantess, as the real Swiss Giantess is exhibiting at No. 63, Piccadilly, opposite St. James’s-street, and continues to be the leading object of attraction among the fashionable amusements of the day, as she is universally allowed to be one of the finest and most beautifully-proportioned women in Europe. Open from 11 till 5.”

The *Annual Register* records the death, on June 18th, 1825, of a man named Peter Tuchan, at Posen, in the twenty-ninth year of his age, of dropsy in the chest. He was a native of Tula, and remarkable for his gigantic stature. He measured eight feet seven inches in height; he had no beard; his voice was

soft; his feet were weak; and he was a very moderate eater. It was said that he was seven years old before he began to grow in such an extraordinary manner, and he continued growing until his death.

On September 5th, 1825, Hone visited Bartholomew Fair; and in his *Every-Day Book* he has amusingly recorded the results, from which we gather that he saw there many giants and dwarfs. In Show No. 1, he inspected a Persian giant, who was a good-natured, tall, and stately negro. One of the attractions of this exhibition was also a female giant; "but she could not be shown for illness: Miss Hipson described her to be a very good young woman." In Show No. 13 was a great giantess. In Show No. 17 was a giant boy, named William Wilkinson Whitehead, who was fourteen years of age on March 26th, 1825. He stood five feet two inches high, measured five feet round the body, twenty-seven inches across the shoulders, twenty inches round the arm, twenty-four inches round the calf, thirty-one inches round the thigh, and weighed twenty-two stone. His father and mother were "travelling merchants," of Manchester; he was born in Glasgow during one of their journeys, and was a fine, handsomely-formed youth, of fair complexion, intelligent countenance, active in motion, and of sensible speech. He was lightly dressed in plaid, to show his limbs, with a bonnet of the same. Hone gives an engraving of him.

Hone has mistaken this boy's name, which was Westhead. In December, 1823, that is, about two

years before he was seen at Bartholomew Fair, he was exhibited in the Strand, whence he issued the following handbill, which gives some interesting details about him : “Just arrived, and may be seen in the commodious rooms, 287, Strand, W. W. Westhead, the Manchester gigantic boy, who was born on the 26th September, 1810. He is allowed by all who have seen him to surpass everything of the kind, and well worth the attention of those who delight in viewing such parts of the creation which display the marvellous works of nature. Weighs more than twenty-two stone, fourteen pounds to the stone. Across the shoulders, twenty-six inches ; round the arms, twenty-one inches ; round the breast, fifty inches ; round the body, five feet ; round the thigh, thirty inches ; round the calf, twenty-five inches. This surprising phenomenon continues to increase in size ; he is perfectly healthy ; his face bears the nicest symmetry of feature ; a fine ruddy complexion ; and is one of the handsomest children in existence. His mother will shew him. He was christened William Wilkinson Westhead, October 12, 1810, in the Collegiate Church, Manchester ; Joseph Hindley, chaplain ; William Shaw, clerk. The above is a true copy, taken from the register. The reader will not believe the account of the above extraordinary phenomenon, unless they see him. Ladies and gentlemen, 1s. ; servants and children, 6d.”

In Show No. 19 were a Yorkshire giantess and a Waterloo giant, the former being an overgrown girl,

and the latter a large man, with a pigtail and his hair frizzed and powdered. Aided by a sort of uniform coat and a plaid rocquelaire, he made a Peninsula hero. In Show No. 20 was a giantess, called by the show placard "The Somerset Girl, taller than any man in England." She "arose from a chair, wherein she was seated, to the height of six feet nine inches and three quarters, with 'Ladies and gentlemen, your most obedient.' She was good-looking and affable, and obliged the 'ladies and gentlemen' by taking off her tight-fitting slipper and handing it round. It was of such dimension, that the largest man present could have put his booted foot into it. She said that her name was Elizabeth Stock, and that she was only sixteen years old."

Some time in or after the year 1826, a showman named H. Lee carried about England, for exhibition, several living wonders, among which was "The British Phenomenon, Miss Hold, the Somersetshire Giantess, of Crewkerne, only 16 years of age, whose immense stature measures nearly seven feet, commanding a prepossessing figure beyond description, and must be seen to be believed. She is a striking instance of nature unassisted by art, and has proved a magnet of irresistible attraction to the wondering world. This is the first time she was ever exhibited in this town, and it is great to say, that she is the only giantess now travelling the United Kingdom. She is remarkably stout and well-proportioned, possessing a pleasing and interesting countenance, and is

allowed by every visitor to be the Tallest Woman in the World! and is particularly worthy the attention of all who delight in viewing such parts of the creation as display the marvellous works of nature. She has been seen with admiration, and particularly by the faculty, who have pronounced her to be the most astonishing woman ever exhibited to a British public." We quote from a handbill, which does not name the place of exhibition, but says that the wonders were "to be seen during the fair," that is, at any fair to which the travelling showman might take his prodigies. The bill tells us that they were "patronized by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, the Duke of Clarence, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourgh, and Princess Augusta Sophia; also the Marquis of Anglesea, Lord Darby, Lord Paget, &c. &c. &c. on the 10th June, 1819, at Haseot, near Windsor Castle."

The *Public Ledger* of September 5th, 1826, says: "We yesterday visited the tall young lady, who is now exhibiting as a giantess, at Bourke's dancing rooms, Change-alley, Cornhill. She stands about seven feet high without her shoes; but with the aid of them, and a most lofty plume of feathers, her visitors would imagine her to be at least eight feet high. She is not only pleasing in her countenance, but extremely well made and proportioned. She is only 18 years of age; and, having all the advantages of a fine person, would be no bad match for the celebrated Monsieur Louis, the French giant. . . . The



young lady receiving the calls of her friends with the greatest politeness. Her manners are extremely pleasing, and indeed her whole demeanour, instead of embarrassing, commands respect in the spectator. She is a native of South Carolina, and has been for the last four years at a boarding-school in England. From the number of black servants that are continually running about her, persons passing through King's Arms-passage imagine her to be a native of India. She is, indeed, well worthy being seen."

A tombstone in Calverley churchyard, in Yorkshire, is inscribed to the memory of "Benjamin, son of John Cromaeh, who died 25th September, 1826, aged twenty-five years," and whose body took a coffin seven feet eleven inches long.

About this time lived the Long Lawyer, a London solicitor, who was about seven feet high, and of whom Cornelius Webb, in his *Glances at Life in City and Suburbs*, jokingly says: "He once affected to ride a eob; but it was soon perceived that he was walking, and that the little fellow was only trotting along between his legs—as it were, under his auspices. Sitting some time after dinner, one day, he remarked, on a sudden, that he would 'get up and stretch himself;' if you had seen the consternation, or if I could describe it! He would pertinaciously persist in travelling by one eoach, when he ought to have gone in three; and as he was resolutely bent on riding inside, they made a hole through the roof for his head and shoulders, and got informed against for

carrying luggage higher than the number of inches allowed by Act of Parliament. His tailor, when he measured him, like a sensible man, stood on a flight of steps; but three of his journeymen, unused to such a perpendicular position, are said to have broken their necks. He never laughed till the laughing was over with all the rest of the audience; a joke took some time to travel from his ear to his midriff and tickle it to laughter. When he went to the pit of the theatre, the gods of the one-shilling gallery cried out, 'Sit down, you sir, in the two!' not perceiving, short-sighted creatures as they are, that he was many feet lower than the midmost heaven."

In 1828 was discovered in the county of White, in the state of Tennessee, an old burying ground, in which were human skeletons from seven to nine feet long.

In January, 1829, died at St. Bees, Cumberland, at the age of nineteen years, Miss Eleanor Messenger, who was six feet four inches high.

A giant, eight feet eight inches high, exhibited himself at Petersburg in June, 1829. He was very thin, and had an emaciated countenance.

In February, 1830, during the excavation of ground on the eastern side of Somerset House, now the site of King's College, a earload of human bones was found; and among them were two skulls and several bones of extraordinary dimensions, which must have belonged to persons of great stature.

The *Observer* for February 6th, 1831, tells the

following story of the loves of a giant and giantess :  
“ On Sunday morning, about five o'clock, heavy groans were heard to proceed from the travelling residence (a large carriage) of the celebrated Scotch Giantess (Miss Freeman), near the new Bethlehem. On a policeman and others entering, they found a female of gigantic form, and a man, lying on the floor in a state of insensibility; and it being ascertained they had taken poison, they were conveyed to Guy's Hospital. The patent pump was applied, by which a quantity of arsenic was taken from the stomachs of both, and they were placed in bed in a very feeble state, but their ultimate recovery was expected. It appears that the female, who stands six feet six inches, was shown more attention to by a man about her own stature, called the Spanish Giant, than her husband, who is not more than half the size of his wife, deemed proper, and he wheeled her off in his four-wheeled residence from St. James-street, where she was then exhibited, to the open space of ground near Bethlehem. A few evenings after, as the Scotch Giantess and her spouse were comfortably seated in the caravan, the latter, to his astonishment, perceived his rival, the Spanish Giant, looking through the carriage window, which, from his surprising height, he could do without much trouble. The husband ran out, intending to take vengeance on the disturber of his domestic peace; but the intruder had disappeared. From that moment they lived unhappily, and she would frequently

seize her husband by the back of the neck, and hold him at arm's length, till he was nearly choked. On Sunday the husband returned, after being out all night, when he found his wife had taken poison, and a portion being left in the cup, he swallowed it off. The consequence was as above stated."

About May, 1831, died, in the twenty-third year of her age, Susannah Boyd, the daughter of Robert Boyd, of Seribe, near Seaford. Although she was born of parents rather below the middle size, this extraordinary girl when nineteen years old weighed eighteen stone and a half, and measured seven feet one inch in height, and twenty-three inches across the chest. Her whole figure was remarkably well-proportioned.

Dr. Adam Clarke, who died in 1832, measured a man in Ireland who was eight feet six inches high.

At Bartholomew Fair in 1832 was exhibited in a show an African lady, who was seven feet in height. And in another show appeared Mr. Claney, an Irish giant, a native of Arklow, county of Wicklow, who was twenty years of age, and also seven feet high. In the following year he exhibited at the same fair, in Broomsgrove's "Collection of Nature's Wonderful Works," when he was described as the renowned Irish giant, seven feet two inches high.

In 1833 was exhibited at Bartholomew Fair, in "Broomsgrove's Collection," the gigantic Shropshire youth, Master Thomas Pierce, aged seventeen years, weighing thirty-five stone, and measuring five feet

ten inches in height. In Simmett's show at the same fair were the Canadian giantesses, Priscilla and Amelia Weston, who were born on Sept. 3d, 1813.

In 1833 Crockett's show at the same fair displayed Miss West, a giantess, upwards of seven feet high, from North America. Another show exhibited a giant, "the only one in the fair," namely, Mr. Samuel Taylor, the Tall Man, who was very handsome, well-formed, affable, and pleasant in his manners.

Soon after this time the popularity of Bartholomew Fair began to wane, and by 1840 many of the ordinary exhibitions had ceased to be shown there. The chairman's notes of the special committee for letting the city ground in Smithfield previous to the fair, dated August 29th, 1840, tell us that out of the short list of applicants for space the giants and dwarfs were excluded. Thus: "Mr. Laskey, Living Giant and Giantess, excluded." "Mr. Crockett, Living Curiosities, Giantess, Dwarf, serpents, crocodile, &c., excluded." The *Morning Herald* for 1828 tells us what were the takings of the chief shows in the fair that year. At the head of the list was Wombwell, 1,700*l.*; and at the bottom was the Scotch Giant, 20*l.* Wild beasts were more attractive than poor Sawney.

In 1833 was born, at Woolwich, in Kent, Edward Cranson, who in 1851, when his full-length portrait was engraved, was so tall that a person over six feet high could stand under his arm, and he could reach ten feet.



Early in 1837 a young man, who had been formerly in the service of the King of the Netherlands, showed himself at Parma as a curiosity. He was eight feet ten inches and three-quarters in height, and weighed four hundredweight and one pound.

In the winter of 1838 Bibi, a French giant, appeared on the stage of the Adelphi Theatre. A writer in 1839, referring to this fact, reminds his readers that they had then lately heard from America of a gentleman who was so tall as to be obliged to go up a ladder to shave himself.

More than twenty years ago an exhibiting giant lodged at a public-house in Grafton-street, Soho, which was kept by Cleland, a kind of overgrown dwarf. The former died of consumption, at about twenty-five years of age.

In 1845 was discovered in the grounds of the Priory of St. Paneras, at Lewes, the thigh-bone of a human skeleton, which measured twenty inches and three-quarters in length, indicating a total height of six feet six inches and three-quarters.

Charles Dickens, in his *Cricket on the Hearth*, 1845, writing of Tackleton, the toy-merchant, says: "In intensifying the portraiture of giants, he had sunk quite a little capital; and, though no painter himself, he could indicate, for the instruction of his artists, with a piece of chalk, a certain furtive leer for the countenances of those monsters, that was safe to destroy the peace of mind of any young gentleman

between the ages of six and eleven, for the whole Christmas or Midsummer vacation."

In 1851 appeared the following advertisement: "Largest Giantess in the world and her companions, natives of Lapland. Now exhibiting daily, at Saville House, Leicester-square, from ten in the morning until ten P.M. This giantess (the largest female ever known) is the more extraordinary from the fact that the natives of her country are almost a race of dwarfs, seldom exceeding four feet in height. Admission, 1s."

In 1853, a man named Freeman, an American giant, served at the bar of the Lion and Ball public-house, No. 63, Red Lion-street, Holborn. His height was alleged to be seven feet six inches, and his weight twenty-one stone. One of his handbills poetically invited the public to visit him:

"You need not unto Hyde Park go,  
For without imposition,  
Smith's Bar Man is, and no mistake,  
The true Great Exhibition.

The proudest noble in the land,  
Despite caprice and whim,  
Though looking *down* on all the world,  
Must fain look *up* to him.

His rest can never be disturbed  
By chanticleer in song,  
For though he early goes to bed,  
He sleeps so very *long*.

Though you may boast a many friends,  
Look in and stand a pot;  
You'll make a new acquaintanceship,  
The *longest* you have got.

Then come and see the Giant Youth,  
Give Edward Smith a call,  
Remember in Red Lion-street,  
The Lion and the Ball.

 Liquors of a Giant's Strength."

On March 17th, 1843, Freeman appeared on the stage of the Olympic Theatre, in conjunction with a dwarf, named Signor Hervio Nano, in a piece written expressly for them, and entitled *The Son of the Desert and the Demon Changeling*. This Brobdignagian Roseius was active in his movements, displayed much dramatic ability, and was well received. At the conclusion of the performance he was led before the curtain by the dwarf to receive the plaudits of the audience. His skeleton, measuring six feet nine inches in height, is now in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, standing by the side of Byrne's skeleton, to the shoulder of which the top of the head of the former just reaches.

The *Times* for Sept. 2d, 1854, says: "On Sunday, the remains of the West Ham Giant, William Sharp, were consigned to their last resting-place. Sharp died last week of consumption, in the West Ham Union-house. The giant, when living, stood seven feet six inches high, and was only in his twenty-fourth year at the time of his demise. He was a native of Stratford; his mother, who is still living, is a Welsh woman, and below the middle stature."

The *Mayo Constitution* for December 6th, 1856, says: "One of the last of the mythical line of Irish giants, in the person of Shawn Nabontree, died at

Connemara on Friday last. He owed his sobriquet to his unusual stature, being a man of extraordinary athletic symmetry—namely, seven feet in height, and weighing over twenty stone. His family, the Joyees, has been for many years one of the wonders of Connemara. He died at the age of seventy, and has left four stalwart sons.”

We read in a chronicle of news from Vienna, under date May 9th, 1857, that Mr. Murphy, the Irish giant, who was born in County Down, and stood seven feet ten inches and a half in his stockings, “had the honour of being admitted to the presenee of the Emperor and Empress of Austria,” and that “the latter conversed in English with Murphy, and acted as interpreter for the Emperor.” Frank Buckland, in the third series of his *Curiosities of Natural History*, says, that Murphy was a native of Killowen, near Rostrevor. He began life as a labourer at Liverpool Docks; but soon obtained a situation as a waiter at an hotel, where his presenee brought custom. He afterwards exhibited himself, and made a little fortune thereby. He died of small-pox at Marseilles, at the age of twenty-six years, he then weighing twenty-four stone, and being only a few inches short of nine feet in height.

Sir William Henry Don, Baronet, who lived about this time, and acted on the stage, was upwards of seven feet high. It was amusing to see him lift his leg over the back of a chair or a fence in some of the plays in which he performed. His wife acted with him.

In the latter half of the year 1860 died, near Rouen, at the age of seventy-one, the tallest man in France, Charles Gruel d'Indreville, of Nesle, in Normandy, who founded, and for many years carried on, some very extensive glass-works at that place. His stature was nearly seven feet six inches English measure, and his body was stout in proportion. In early life he entered the imperial army as a private soldier, but he soon gained the rank of sub-lieutenant. He was present at the battles of Wagram and Moscow. At one time he was a prisoner of war; and having fallen ill, he was sent to the hospital of Königsberg. This building was sacked by the Russians, and D'Indreville was thrown out into the street, and he passed a whole night in the snow with only a slight covering. He, however, recovered, and returned to France, where he set up his glass-works, which were of such importance that King Louis Philippe several times visited them. In one of his visits a violent storm came on, which compelled his majesty to remain and accept a collation. This giant was a member of the Legion of Honour, and filled several local municipal offices.

At the end of 1860, or the beginning of 1861, died, in the neighbourhood of Cong, after a few days' illness, Patriek Glynn, the son of a respectable farmer named James Glynn. He was only twenty-two years of age, and was twenty-two stone in weight; that is, fourteen pounds for each year of his age. He was six feet eight inches in height, beautifully propor-



tioned, and possessed of enormous strength. He was humane and gentle in disposition.

In 1861, as some workmen were sinking a foundation for the enlargement of the parish church of Mullingar, at the east end of the building they discovered, among other human remains, the perfect skeleton of a man measuring more than seven feet in length, and which appeared, from the immense size of the skull and the bones of the hands and jaw, to have equalled in its other dimensions its extraordinary height. Its position was considerably deeper in the earth than that at which skeletons are generally found. There was sufficient appearance of a coffin to prove that it had received proper interment; but everything connected with it indicated that it had been buried for several centuries.

In 1862, just as the Great Exhibition was about to be opened, appeared in the *Times* an advertisement offering to the notice of the Commissioners a French giant, named Joseph Brice, who desired to appear at the opening ceremony in costume, but was not allowed to do so. The advertisement commenced: "I am the agent and interpreter of a French subject; he is a giant; his height is eight feet; his weight thirty stone; his age twenty-two; of a pleasing exterior. I take the liberty to offer him to your lordships' notice." Frank Buckland, in the third series of his *Curiosities of Natural History*, says that Brice's height was not eight feet, but about seven feet six and a half or seven inches. He was born at Ramonchamp,

in the Vosges, on the Rhine; and that being a hilly district, he called himself "The Giant of the Mountains." His parents were respectable farm people, and of the ordinary size of French peasants. At his birth he did not exceed the usual dimensions of infants; but after a short illness in his childhood he began to assume gigantic proportions, and continued to grow and enjoy good health, until, at the age of thirteen, he was equal in height to his father. At the age of sixteen he commenced to exhibit himself publicly; and for this purpose he visited the principal towns of France; and at Paris he was introduced to the Emperor. He then travelled and exhibited himself in England and Ireland, a young woman of which latter country he married. She did not, unlike Byron's muse, withstand

"The giant thought of being a Titan's bride."

Brice coming under the notice of Buckland in consequence of the advertisement above mentioned, that gentleman carefully measured him, and had a cast of his hand taken. His actual height was ninety inches, the circumference of his head twenty-five inches, round his chest fifty-four inches, across the shoulders twenty-five inches, length of arm (humerus) nineteen inches, length of forearm (radius) twenty-five inches and a half, circumference of forearm fourteen inches, length of middle finger five inches and a half, diameter of hand six inches, length of thigh-bone (femur) twenty-seven inches and a half, length

of leg-bone (tibia) twenty-two inches and a half, length of foot fifteen inches and a half, diameter of foot eight inches, and the stretch of his arms ninety-five inches and a half. His shoes were one foot four inches long, and five inches and a half across.

Buckland says that he invited Brice to Regent's Park Barracks, and when he went into the stables there to see the troop-horses, they shied and snorted at him because he was so tall. In October, 1865, Brice and his wife came to London, and he was engaged by Anderson, the Wizard, to exhibit at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, where he appeared as "Anak, King of the Anakims, or the Giant of Giants."

In his travels he met with only three persons who in stature approached his own height. One was a gentleman in the legal profession, who came to see him at Haverford West, and who measured six feet eight inches and a half; another was a man in the police force at Newcastle, who was six feet nine inches and a half high; and another was John Greeve, of Pontefract, Yorkshire, who measured six feet ten inches and a half in height.

In 1863, a Polish giantess, calling herself the Countess Lodoiska, was exhibited at Saville House, Leicester-square. She was a native of Warsaw, and her parents and family were not above the ordinary stature. She was seven feet in height, weighed two hundred and seventy pounds, and could without difficulty lift one hundred and sixty or seventy pounds

weight with one hand. At the time of her appearance in London she was about twenty years of age, and was remarkably well formed, and of pleasing appearance and manners.

The *Edinburgh Courant* for 1864 says: "Corporal Moffat, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, at present staying at Kelso on the recruiting staff, is believed to be the tallest soldier in the army. His height is six feet seven inches and a half, and he is proportionately stout. Corporal Moffat joined the Scots Fusiliers about two years and a half ago, is about twenty-four years of age, and is a native of Leitholm, near Kelso. Previous to joining the Fusiliers he worked on the Duke of Roxburgh's estate as a forester for a considerable time. Growing tired of that occupation, he offered to join the Life-guards, but was rejected owing to his immense height and weight. Nothing daunted at this, Moffat determined if possible to join the Scots Fusiliers, and proceeded immediately to London for that purpose, and was quickly accepted. As Corporal Moffat is well known in the Kelso district, he will doubtless be of great assistance to the recruiting party stationed there."

In February, 1864, Barnum had in his Museum in New York four giants, who, according to their advertisements, were each over eight feet high, and weighed altogether over fifteen thousand pounds. On July 13th, 1865, this Museum and its contents were destroyed by fire, on which occasion a giantess named Anna Swan had a narrow escape. She was found at

the head of the stairs in a swooning condition from the smoke, and was with difficulty got out of the building. She lost everything that she possessed except the clothes she wore; and in her trunk were twelve hundred dollars in gold, besides more in "greenbacks," and all her clothing.

In 1865, General Lyon discovered an ancient and lost city in Mexico, situated about one hundred miles west of Tuxpau, in the state of Vera Cruz. The Indians made violent efforts to dissuade the exploring party from proceeding in this direction, declaring that it was inhabited by giants and hideous monsters, and that none who had gone that way had ever returned alive; but the party did not pay so much attention to these stories as De Soto did to precisely similar ones, with which he was met more than three centuries ago. The ruins showed that the city had formerly been a large and important one, but no evidences of giant inhabitants appeared.

Recent news from Marion, in Ohio, says that thirty skeletons of a tall extinct human race were lately found in an excavation for a cellar upon a hill in that place. Two of the skeletons were of females, and the rest were of males. The owners of the former, when living, must have been taller than the average men of the present day, and the males must have been seven or eight feet high.

The Chinese pretend to have had men among them so prodigious as fifteen feet high. Melchior Nuñez, in his letters from India, speaks of porters



who guarded the gates of Pekin who were of that immense height; and in a letter dated in 1555, he avers that the emperor of that country entertained and fed five hundred of such men for archers of his guard. Hakewill, in his *Apologie*, 1627, repeats this story. Purchas, in his *Pilgrimes*, 1625, refers to a man in China who "was cloathed with a tyger's skin, the hayre outward, his armes, head, and legges bare, with a rude pole in his hand; well-shaped, seeming ten palmes or spans long, his hayre hanging on his shoulders." Early in 1866 the Chinese sent us Chang Woo Gow, one of their people, with King Foo, his wife, and Chung Mow, a Tartar rebel dwarf. The giant was then seven feet nine inches in height, and nineteen years of age. He was most gentlemanly and interesting in his manners, and an intelligent and able scholar. He visited the Prince and Princess of Wales, and at their request wrote his name on the wall of the room in which he was received at the height of nearly ten feet from the ground. One of his sisters is said to have attained the stature of eight feet four inches.

The success of his exhibition of himself in England brought into public notice a rival giant, namely, Brice, alias Anak the Anakim, whom we have before mentioned. But both he and Chang were sought to be surpassed by a British giant, who described himself as "the greatest wonder of the world, only seventeen years of age," and who held his levees in London in the summer of 1866.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* of April 6th, 1867, says: "A few days ago I met at dinner the tallest man I ever saw in my life. When introduced to him I said, 'Caro signore'—he is an Italian—'you are the tallest man but one in Europe; that one is Peter Nihil, a well-known English writer, and one of the cleverest men we have.' 'You are wrong,' said my new acquaintance, 'that gentleman is a near relation of mine, and I am four inches taller.' Fancy anybody except a drum-major daring to be seven feet high. I have, however, rarely met seven feet of pleasanter stuff. We fraternised, and should have gone home in the same brougham, only we could not get into it. Last night I was saying what a pleasant fellow Signor P—— was, and asked a very small acquaintance if he happened to know him. 'No,' said my little friend, 'I don't know him; I am only acquainted with him. You see I am delicate and very small, and I have neither stamina nor life enough to know such a monster.' He evidently considered that an acquaintance was to be made by a contract or time-bargain."

On May 31st, 1867, died at Yetholm, near Kelso, Richard Meek, who had formerly been a member of the Durham county constabulary. He was the tallest policeman in the kingdom, his height being six feet ten inches in his stockings. About two years before his death he was incapacitated for duty in consequence of consumption, and with the view of improving his health he retired to Yetholm. At the

time of his decease he was thirty years of age, and was married.

Edward O'Baldwin, a now living giant member of the prize-ring, is nearly seven feet high.

The following story of a giant and dwarf going out to battle, and sharing the victory, but not the wounds, is told in the *Vicar of Wakefield*: "Once upon a time a giant and a dwarf were friends, and kept together. They made a bargain that they would never forsake each other, but go and seek adventures. The first battle they fought was with two Saracens; and the dwarf, who was very courageous, dealt one of the champions a most angry blow. It did the Saracen but very little injury, who, lifting up his sword, fairly struck off the poor dwarf's arm. He was now in a woful plight; but the giant, coming to his assistance, in a short time left the two Saracens dead on the plain; and the dwarf cut off the dead man's head out of spite. They then travelled on to another adventure. This was against three bloody-minded satyrs, who were carrying away a damsel in distress. The dwarf was not quite so fierce now as before; but for all that struck the first blow, which was returned by another that knocked out his eye: but the giant was soon up with them, and, had they not fled, would certainly have killed them every one. They were all very joyful for this victory; and the damsel who was relieved fell in love with the giant, and married him. They now travelled far, and farther than I can tell, till they met

with a company of robbers. The giant, for the first time, was foremost now ; but the dwarf was not far behind. The battle was stout and long. Wherever the giant came, all fell before him ; but the dwarf had like to have been killed more than once. At last the victory declared for the two adventurers ; but the dwarf lost his leg. The dwarf was now without an arm, a leg, and an eye ; while the giant, who was without a single wound, cried out to him, ‘ Come on, my little hero ; this is glorious sport : let us get one victory more, and then we shall have honour for ever.’ ‘ No,’ cries the dwarf, who was by this time grown wiser, ‘ no ; I declare off. I’ll fight no more, for I find that in every battle you get all the honour and rewards, but all the blows fall upon me.’ ”

Another story relates that a dwarf was choked in the fraternal embrace of a giant, with the poor consolation that it was the giant’s nature to squeeze hard.

A very tall man was in the streets of Boston, when an old lady, who admired his gigantic stature, thus addressed him : “ Mister, were you large when you were small ? ” “ Yes, marm,” said the man ; “ I was considerable big when I was little.”

An old proverb says, “ A giant will starve on what will surfeit a dwarf ; ” and Erasmus refers to the adage of “ Drawing a pigmy’s froek over the shoulders of a giant.”

Among the giants about whom we have been unable to obtain information are Reiehardt, of Friel-

berg, near Frankfort, who was eight feet three inches high; Martin Salmeron, a Mexican, who was seven feet three inches and a half high; a Danish female named La Pierre, who was seven feet high; Antonio Cauzzi, an Italian giant, whose whole-length portrait, in a hat with a high crown, has been published; the great Tonas, whose skeleton is in a museum at Berlin; a similar skeleton in a museum at Marburg; King Tendradus, who, according to some legends, was twenty-five feet high; a man called Steeple Longman, whose whole-length portrait has been engraved; Mrs. Armitage, a giantess, who weighed thirty-one stone; and a Canadian giant, whose portrait has been published.



## CHAPTER X.

Bible Dwarfs—The Pigmies—their battles with the Cranes—Fairy Dwarfs—Legendary Dwarfs—Vishnu—Dwarf Figures—Dwarf's Chambers—Tom Thumb—Dwarfs of Teutonic Romance—Dwarfs in Pageants—Sir J. Mandeville's Accounts of Dwarfs—Nations of Pigmies—Purchas writes of Dwarfs in Iceland, Japan, and Brazil—Isle of Pigmies—Burying-places of Dwarfs—Small Skeletons—Lilliputian Coffins—Short Nations—Bushmen—Madagascar Dwarfs—The Kimos—Bordeu and La Chappe see Dwarfs.

It is a noteworthy fact that the Bible, which makes such frequent mention of giants, names a dwarf only once, and that is in Leviticus xxi. 20, where it is commanded that no man who was a dwarf should make the offerings at the altar. This reticence leads us to the conclusion that dwarfs were exceptional human beings at least with the Jews. But Jericho produced a man who "was little of stature," namely Zaccheus, who climbed up into a sycamore-tree in order to see Jesus (Luke xix. 3).

Among the many vulgar errors which have originated in a love of the marvellous, and circulated about the world, is the belief in the existence of a nation of pigmies. In ancient mythology the Pygmæi were a fabulous body of dwarfs, who descended from Pygmæus, a son of Dorus, and grandson of Epaphus. They lived in the extremest parts of India, or, according to some writers, in Ethiopia. Homer

says that they had every spring to sustain a war against the cranes on the banks of Oceanus. Some authors say that they were no more than one foot high, and that they built their houses with eggshells.

Aristotle did not believe that the accounts of the pigmies were altogether false ; but thought that they were a tribe in Upper Egypt, who lived in holes under the earth, had exceedingly small horses, and came out in the harvest-time with hatchets to cut down the corn as if to fell a forest. They went on goats and lambs of a stature proportionable to themselves, to make war against the eranes, which came yearly from Seythia to plunder them. They were originally governed by a princeess, who was changed into a crane for boasting that she was fairer than Juno.

Philostratus, who died in the year of our Lord 244, affirms that Hercules once fell asleep in the deserts of Africa after he had conquered Antæus, the giant, and that he was suddenly awakened by an attack which had been made upon his body by an army of pigmies, who discharged their arrows furiously upon his arms and legs. The hero, pleased with their courage, wrapped a great number of them in the skin of the Nemæan lion, and carried them to Eurystheus. They were so small that they climbed with ladders to the edge of the cup of Hercules in order to drink from it.

The Pechinians of Ethiopia, who are represented

to have been of very small stature, and to have been accustomed every year to drive away the cranes who flocked to their country in the winter, are portrayed upon ancient gems mounted on cocks and partridges prepared to fight their feathered enemies, or carrying grasshoppers, and leaning on staves in order to support the burden, or in a shell playing with two flutes, or fishing with a line.

In the time of Theodosius was seen in Egypt a pigmy so small in body that he resembled a partridge; yet he exercised all the functions of a man, could sing admirably, and lived to the age of twenty years.

In later times we read of northern pigmies who lived in the neighbourhood of Thule, were very short-lived, and small in stature, and went armed with spears like needles. Indian pigmies are said to have lived under the earth on the east of the river Ganges.

Strabo thought that the story of the pigmies and the cranes was a fiction; and no doubt it was one. Addison related the tale in Latin, and James Beattie in 1762 translated it into English verse, entitled *Pygmaeo-Gerano-Machia*. We are told that the empire of the pigmy breed flourished in India, where they slaughtered the cranes, and seized their eggs and callow young. The birds thus wronged determined to be revenged upon "the eighteen-inch militia;" and accordingly they collected from all parts of the world, and made a deadly attack upon the manikins. The dwarfs prepared to defend themselves, and

“ High in the midst the chieftain-dwarf was seen,  
Of giant stature and imperial mien ;  
Full twenty inches tall, he strode along.”

A fearful battle ensued, and after much bloodshed on both sides the eranes conquered the pigmies, and entirely exterminated them.

“ And now, with lofty chiefs of ancient time,  
The pygmy heroes roam th’ Elysian clime ;  
Or, if belief to matron-tales be due,  
Full oft, in the belated shepherd’s view,  
Their frisking forms, in gentle green array’d,  
Gambol secure amid the moonlight glade.”

Such, in part, is the history of those tiny fairy people who figure about the world under various names and in various forms ; sometimes benevolent, at other times vicious ; now dancing in the meadows, now flitting about the homes of mankind, and now infesting mines and mountains. These little spirits are well known in all parts of Europe ; and many are the places where they have left their marks and evidences. Athanasius Kircher says, that the *viruli* or *virunculi montani*, the pigmies who frequent the mines of Helvetia and Hungary, sometimes leave the prints of their feet in the moist sand and soft earth of the mines, and that these prints are about the size of the feet of children three years old. Similar small beings resort to the mines of Wales and Cornwall.

Plot, in his *Staffordshire*, 1686, says : “ Not that there are any creatures of a third kind distinct from men and spirits of so small a stature as Paracelsus fancied, which he was pleased to style non-Adamical

men ; but that the devils, as they are best pleased with the sacrifices of young children, . . . . so it seems they delight themselves chiefly in the assumption of the shapes of children of both sexes, as we are credibly informed by sober authors such as Georgius Agricola, Wierus, and others, who affirm them so frequent, especially in the German, Hungarian, and Helvetian (Mr. Bushell seems also to hint the same in our Welsh silver) mines, that they have given them divers names in their respective places."

Keightley in his *Fairy Mythology* gives us very full accounts of the many northern mythical dwarfs. Scandinavia has its dwarfs or trolls, who are believed to dwell inside mounds and hillocks, whence they are also called hill-people. Sometimes they live in single families, and sometimes in societies ; they are rich and industrious. Iceland also has its hill-men and hill-women. Rügen, an island in the Baltic, produces black, white, and brown underground little people. Switzerland has its earth-men, and Germany is well stocked with such romantic dwarfs.

Dwarfs as well as giants figure in the mythology and legendary lore of many countries, although they do not appear to have commanded so much of the sympathies and imaginations of mankind as the giants. The early Saxons fabled that four dwarfs supported the celestial dome which was created by the god Odin. The Hindus say that King Mahabali, by force of sacrifices and austerities, acquired such a



power over the gods that they were compelled to surrender to him the earth and sea, and waited in dread until the conclusion of his last sacrifice should put him in possession of the heavens. On this occasion Vishnu, under the name of Vamuna, presented himself as a Bramin dwarf, who was so small that he imagined a hole made by a cow's foot, and full of water, to be a lake. He begged of the king as much ground as he could step over in three paces; the king granted his request with a smile at his diminutive stature; whereupon Vishnu at the first step strode over the earth, at the second over the ocean, and no space being left for the third he released the king from his promise on the condition of his descending to the infernal regions.

In the eaves of Cannara, Ambola, and Elephanta, in the East Indies, which were examined in 1783, were discovered many figures of deformed dwarfs. These beings seem to have sprung up in the Persian romances, which everywhere abound with them. They are the creatures of Oriental imagination, and appear to have been introduced into our books of chivalry from the East, in consequence of our correspondence with the people of that country during the Crusades.

Henderson, in the account of his visit to Iceland in 1814-1815, tells us of the eaverns called Doerga Kamrar, or the Dwarf's Chambers, which he found among the basaltic columns of Hornafhot, natural structures called Tröllahlad, or the Giant's Wall, by

the natives, who considered them to be the production of superhuman intelligences. The same author saw at the Desolate Mountain, in Iceland, a number of small columns formed by the cooling of volcanic lava, and which were called Tröllabörn, or the Giant's Children. Helgeland is considered to be the ancient abode of those Jotuns, or giants, who are named by Icelandic poets, and whom it was meritorious in a Norwegian to kill.

King Alberich was one of the many dwarfs of Teutonic origin, who, clad in the Nebel-kappe, or cloud-cloak, became invisible. Our English dwarf, Tom Thumb, was a dwarf or dwergar of Scandinavian descent, closely related to the mystic Little Thumb, or Tom-a-lyn, Thaumlin, Tamlane, and Tommel-finger, who figures in many different characters in the legends of the North. The German Daumerling, or Little Thumb, is said to have been the son of a tailor, and has not much in common with our Tom Thumb, except that he was swallowed by a dun cow in Germany, just as our small hero was so consumed in England. A book in the Danish language treats of Swain Tomling, a man no bigger than a thumb, who would be married to a woman three ells and three quarters long. Tom Hearne, in his appendix to *Benedictus Abbas*, states that the fiction of Tom Thumb was founded upon an authentic account of King Edgar's dwarf. Some lines written in 1630, and entitled *Tom Thumbe, his Life and Death*, say :

“ In Arthur's court Tom Thumbe did live,  
A man of mickle might,  
The best of all the table round,  
And eke a doughty knight :  
His stature but an inch in height,  
Or quarter of a span ;  
Then thinke you not this little knight  
Was prov'd a valiant man ?”

An almanaek for 1697 tells us that, one hundred and four years before that date, Tom Thumb and Garagantua fought a duel on Salisbury Plain. According to a popular tradition, Tom died at Lincoln, which was one of the five Danish towns of England ; and in the minster there was a little blue flag-stone in the pavement that was pointed out to credulous visitors as his monument. But during comparatively modern repairs done to the building, this stone was displaced and lost. In 1730 Henry Fielding wrote a tragedy entitled *Tom Thumb*, which was subsequently enlarged and called *The Tragedy of Tragedies, or the Life and Death of Tom Thumb the Great*.

We have before mentioned that the giants of ancient legendary story figured in civic pageants. Strutt says that dwarfs also appeared in these municipal processions.

Apart from the stories of spiritual dwarfs, we have various accounts of nations of human pigmies. Pliny says that such a people existed, and that they were only three spans or twenty-seven inches in height. Sir John Mandeville, who travelled in Asia and Africa between 1322 and 1356, tells us of a land of pigmies, where there were men only three spans

long. Both the men and the women were fair and gentle, and were married when they were half a year old. They generally lived only six or seven years; and if they reached eight years, they were considered to be old. These small men were the best workmen of silk and cotton, and of all manner of other things that were in the world. They scorned great men as we do giants, and had them to travel for them, and to till the land. He also says that there was another island, called Pitau, where the men did not till the ground, for they ate nothing; and they were small, but not so small as the pigmies. These men lived by the smell of wild apples, and when they went far out of the country, they took apples with them; for as soon as they lost the savour of that fruit, they died. They were not reasonable, but as wild as beasts. In other places, says Sir John, were men as little as dwarfs, who had no mouths, but instead a little round hole, through which they ate their meat with a pipe; and they had no tongues; neither did they speak, but blew and whistled, and made signs to each other.

In a rare book by Laurens Andrewes, entitled *Noble Lyfe and Nature of Man*, is the following curious description of pigmies: "Pigmeis be men & women, & but one cubite longe, dwellinge in the mountaynes of Ynde; they be full growen at their third yere, & at their seuen yere they be olde; & they gader them in May a grete company togeder, & arme them in theyr best maner; and than go they

to the water syde, & where-so-euer they fynd any cranes nestis, they breake all the egges, & kyll all the yonges that they fynde; and this they do because the cranes do them many displeasures, & fight with them often tymes, & do them great seathe; but these folke eouer their houses with the cranes feders & egshels."

Pigaffetta says that an old pilot of the Moluccas told his company that dwarfs lived in caverns in the Isle of Aruehet, and had ears so very long that they slept upon one and covered themselves with the other. In the seventeenth century Van Helmont said that a merehant had told him that pigmies once lived in the Canary Islands. Travellers tell us that a race of dwarfs once lived in Abyssinia.

Purehas, in his *Pilgrimes*, 1625, was told in Iceland that "pigmies represent the most perfect shape of man; that they are hairy to the uttermost joynts of the fingers, and that the males have beards downe to the knees; but although they have the shape of men, yet they have little sense or understanding, nor distinct speech, but make shew of a kinde of hissing, after the manner of geese." He also says: "To the north-east of Manikesock are a kind of little people called Matinbas, which are no bigger than boyes of twelve yeares old, but are very thicke, and live onely upon flesh, which they kill in the woods with their bowes and darts." He further tells us that in Japan were "people of very low stature, like dwarfes;" and that in Brazil were pigmies living in caves: "This



countrie of Toeoman is all sandic, and in it inhabite the pigmeys; I have seene many of them amongst the Spaniards at the River of Plate. They are not altogether so little as wee speake of them here in England: their inhabitation in Tocoman is in caves of the ground."

One of the Hebrides is called the Isle of Pigmies, where it is reported that several miniature bones of the human species have been dug up in the ruins of a chapel there. William Collins, in his *Ode on the Popular Superstitions of the Highlands of Scotland*, refers

"To that hoar pile which still its ruins shows :  
In whose small vaults a pigmy folk is found,  
Whose bones the delver with his spade upthrows,  
And culls them, wondering, from the hallow'd ground."

It is alleged by contemporary newspapers that in 1828 several burying-grounds, from half an acre to an acre and a half in extent, were discovered in the county of White, state of Tennessee, near the town of Sparta, wherein very small people had been deposited in tombs or coffins of stone. The greatest length of the skeletons was nineteen inches. The bones were strong and well-set, and the whole frames were well formed. Some of the people appeared to have lived to a great age, their teeth being worn smooth and short, while others were full and long. The graves were about two feet deep; the coffins were of stone, and made by laying a flat stone at the bottom, one at each side or each end, and one over the corpse. The

dead were all buried with their heads towards the east and in regular order, laid on their backs and with their hands on their breasts. In the bend of the left arm was found a cruse or vessel that would hold nearly a pint, made of ground stone or shell, of a gray colour, in which were found two or three shells. One of these skeletons had about its neck ninety-four pearl beads. Near one of these burying-places was the appearance of the site of an ancient town.

Webber, in his *Romance of Natural History*, 1853, refers to the diminutive sarcophagi found in Kentucky and Tennessee; and he describes these receptacles to be about three feet in length by eighteen inches deep, and constructed, bottom, sides, and top, of flat unhewn stones. These he conjectures to be the places of sepulture of a pigmy race, that became extinct at a period beyond reach even of the tradition of the so-called Indian aborigines.

Newspapers for 1866 tell us that General Milroy, who had been spending much time in Smith County, Tennessee, attending to some mining business, discovered near Watertown in that county some remarkable graves, which were disclosed by the washing of a small creek in its passage through a low bottom. The graves were from eighteen inches to two feet in length, most of them being of the smaller size, and were formed by an excavation of about fifteen inches below the surface, in which were placed four undressed slabs of rock—one in the bottom of the pit,

one on each side, and one on the top. Human skeletons, some with nearly an entire skull, and many with well-defined bones, were found in them. The teeth were very diminutive, but evidently those of adults. Earthen crocks were also found with the skeletons. General Milroy could not gain any satisfactory information respecting these pigmy graves. The oldest inhabitants of the vicinity knew nothing of their origin or history, except that there was a large number of similar graves near Statesville in the same county, and also a little burial-ground at the mouth of Stone River, near the city of Nashville. General Milroy deposited the bones found by him in the State Library at Nashville.

Whatever truth there may be in these curious stories, it seems that in the interior of the European and Asiatic continents and of the larger islands, and in India, Borneo, and other countries, there are existent reliquiae of a non-historic diminutive people, who may have been the descendants of primitive races who were driven inland by the invasion of a more powerful people, and in the lapse of generations may have lost, by their isolation, the small measure of civilisation that they had formerly attained. But philosophers who have fully discussed the question whether there are any causes in operation likely to produce a race of very small dwarfs, have arrived at the conclusion that there never has been any race marvellously short in stature, notwithstanding the testimonies of ancient poets and historians. All the

examples well authenticated are rare and individual only. Quetelet, on the authority of Birch, assigns seventeen inches as the minimum of human stature reliably recorded.

Reserving for the present our consideration of several tribes of people who are said to be of diminutive stature, we will add to our account of the above-mentioned pigmies' graves some information relative to a so-called fairy's burial-place which was discovered in Scotland in 1836. Near Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags some boys found in a rock an aperture about twelve inches square, in which were many lilliputian coffins, each of which contained a miniature figure, carved out of wood, and dressed in cotton clothes. The coffins were three or four inches long, and each was cut entire out of one piece of wood, the lids being fastened on with brass pins. The sides and the lid were studded with pieces of tin. Many years had elapsed since the first interment, and it appeared that the burials had been made singly and at considerable intervals of time, because some of the coffins were rotten and decayed, while others were in various degrees of decomposition, and a few were comparatively fresh. Some of them were preserved in the museum of the late Robert Frazer, a jeweller, in Edinburgh. Various conjectures have been formed respecting these simulacra of wood: one being, that they were deposited in lilliputian coffins and buried for magical purposes or superstitious spells, as practised with incantations

from the very earliest times up to the era of the Reformation; another idea being that they were symbolically interred in memory of friends who died at a long distance, in whose actual funereal rites the depositors were consequently precluded from taking part. Mr. Frazer thought that the depositors probably were some of the French emigrants who accompanied and formed part of the household of Charles X., when, as Comte d'Artois, he resided in Holyrood Palace, about 1795 or 1796. It was an ancient custom in Saxony to bury the miniature effigy of departed friends who had died in a distant land; and it was also a superstition among sailors to enjoin on their wives on parting to give them Christian burial in effigy if they should happen to be drowned.

Although we arrive at the conclusion that there never has been a nation of pigmies, it seems certain that there are several dwarfish races of people. Our readers will remember that we have recorded that the Lapps, Samoïedes, Ostiacks, Koriaeks, Kamtchadales, Esquimaux, and Bushmen, are all diminutive.\* The two latter are perhaps the smallest people as a race that we are acquainted with, their average height seldom exceeding four feet or four feet five inches.

Between ten and twenty years ago two Bushmen or Boshien children were exhibited at the Egyptian Hall in London. They were of the Hottentot tribe, and had been brought from the interior of Africa.

\* Vide p. 69.



They were a boy and a girl, not related to each other. The boy was sixteen years of age, and, although nearly full grown, was only forty-four inches in height. The girl was eight years old, and thirty-two inches high. In their exhibition they wore the dress of their tribe, danced, threw a spear, and performed various other feats. The boy, in the character of a corporal of the army, went through the manual and platoon exercises; and the girl appeared as a soldier's wife. Their parents were said to have been murdered by Kaffirs, who pursued and exterminated the Bushmen tribe with unrelenting ferocity. They were rescued by a Dutch trader, and taken to Cape Town, whence they were brought to England. Du Chaillu has announced his discovery of a whole nation of African negro dwarfs, and he has given us the measurements of their stature, male and female.

Roehon says, in his account of his voyage to Madagasear, about 1770, that he was a resident among the lilliputian race of people in that island some time. He asserts that they entirely confined themselves to the middle region of the place. The common size of the men, he says, was three feet five inches by exact measurement, and that the women were some inches shorter. They were possessed of much wit and intellect, and were the boldest and most active warriors on the island. To accommodate these fairy people, the plants and vegetables growing on the mountains inhabited by them were naturally dwarfed. He also saw there a dwarfish race called

the Kimos, who were whiter or paler in colour than all the other negroes. Their arms were so long that they could stretch their hands below their knees without stooping. They were intelligent, lively, and ingenious. The women had scarcely any breasts, except when they suckled. The author particularly describes a Kimos woman, a slave belonging to the governor of Fort Dauphin. She was about thirty years of age, and three feet seven inches high. Her complexion was very fair, her limbs were well formed, her arms were exceedingly long, her hair was short and woolly, and her features were agreeable. She had no appearance of breasts except the nipples. She was good-humoured, sensible, and obliging.

A sailor named Jean Borden, who arrived at Marseilles early in 1776, across the African continent from Madagascar, on which island he had been shipwrecked in 1767, related that he had met with a nation of dwarfs, inhabiting the high mountains in the interior of that country. They were not above three feet high, but possessed uncommon strength of body, and great quickness of mind.

The Abbé La Chappe visited a village in Siberia inhabited by people called Wotiacks, who were not above four feet high.

Page, at the end of the last century, says that in Manilla was a race of men, very diminutive in stature, and of mild and gentle dispositions, whose features and complexions strikingly resembled the negroes.

## CHAPTER XI.

Egyptian Dwarfs—Dwarf Amulets—Romans kept Dwarfs—Emperor Augustus and Dwarfs—Lucius—Conopas—Andromeda—Sisyphus—Gladiatorial Dwarfs—Naked Dwarfs—Fancy Dwarf—Dwarfs in royal retinues—Spanish Court Dwarfs—Dwarf of Charles V.—King Christian's Dwarf—Dwarf of Charles IX.—Dwarf of Earl Marshal of England—Domestic Dwarfs—Duke of Mantua's Dwarfs—Propagation of Dwarfs—Dwarf of Archduke Ferdinand—African King's Dwarfs—Dwarfs at Russian Court—Russian Dwarfs—Hamburgh Dwarfs—Dram-drinking and Dwarfs—Byron describes Dwarfs—Philetas—Maximus and Tullius—Alypius—Cræsus—Calvus—Charæus—Uladislaus—Baconthorpe—Dwarf in parrot's cage—French Dwarf in cage—Decker—Jervis—The Molones—Dutch Dwarf—Shakespeare and Dwarfs—Queen Elizabeth's gift to a Dwarf—John de Estrix—Zoilus—Richard Gibson—Charles I. present at his Marriage with Anne Shepherd—Waller's Poem on the Marriage—Advertisement for Gibson's Descendants—Jeffrey Hudson—his Life—Sir Christopher Wren—Sir Isaac Newton's smallness—How to make Dwarfs.

THE custom of having dwarfs and deformed men in the suites of grand personages was common in the East from the earliest times. The grottoes of Beni Hassan, in Egypt, contain sculpturings which show how very ancient was this usage in that country. Wilkinson surmised that the Egyptian grandees admitted these grotesque beings into their households “originally, perhaps, from a humane motive, or from some superstitious regard for men who bore the external character of one of their principal gods, Pthah-Sokari-Osiris, the mis-shapen deity of Mem-

phis; but, whatever may have given rise to the custom, it is a singular fact that, already as early as the age of Osirtasen, more than 3,500 years ago, the same fancy of attaching these persons to their suite existed among the Egyptians."

Again, the same author says (*Ancient Egyptians*): "Pthah-Sokari-Osiris was that form of Pthah, or Vulean, particularly worshipped at Memphis. Herodotus describes him as a pigmy figure, resembling the Pataikos placed by the Phœnicians at the prows of their vessels; and says that Cambyzes, on entering the temple of Memphis, ridiculed the contemptible appearance of the Egyptian Hephæstus. Representations of this dwarf deity are frequently met with at Memphis and the vicinity; and it appears that dwarfs and deformed persons were held in consideration in this part of Egypt, out of respect to the deity of the place."

The Egyptians had in use a small terra-cotta figure of a dwarf god, with a rude beard, something like Hercules; and also one of the deformed Pthah-Sokari-Osiris of Memphis. These figures probably were used by this people as amulets against adversity. Father Kircher published in his *Œdipi Ægyptiaci*, in 1654, an engraving of an ancient bronze representing one of these dwarf charms, full-length, with his hands resting upon his hips. Wilkinson gives an exactly similar illustration; and Count Caylus has given us a print of a bronze of the same kind. It is said that Abbas Pasha was the last grandee who kept dwarfs in Egypt.

Dwarfs were introduced at a later period of history into different parts of Europe, in imitation of the custom in the East; and they were employed in Rome even before the time of the empire. The Romans were very great admirers of them, and kept them, as we do monkeys, for diversion. Some persons even exercised the cruel art of stopping the growth of children by confining them in chests, or binding them with bandages, in order to prepare them for sale to the wealthy patrons of such stunted curiosities. Most of them came from Egypt and Syria; and they were called *nani* or *nane*.

Marc Antony had dwarfs in his court; and the Emperor Augustus particularly admired comely young ones, whom he caused to be sent to him from all parts of the world, and especially from Mauritania and Syria. And not only would he have them little, but they also must be perfectly formed, handsome, and lively. Suetonius says that Augustus amused himself with their prattle, and played with them for nuts, and thus forgot his constitutional melancholy and the cares of the world.

The same historian mentions a dwarf, named Lucius, a Roman knight, who was exhibited in the theatre to the people as an object of curiosity by Augustus. Suetonius says: "Thenceforth the only exhibition he made of that kind was that of a young man named Lucius, of a good family, who was not quite two feet in height, and weighed only seventeen pounds, but had a stentorian voice."



Julia, the daughter of Augustus, was very fond of a male dwarf named Conopas, who was two feet and a hand's-breath high, symmetrically formed, and of full age. Andromeda, a freed maid of Julia's, was of the same height.

M. Antonius is said to have kept a dwarf named Sisylphus, who was not two feet in height, and yet had a lively wit.

“What vast perfection cannot Nature crowd  
Into a puny point !”

Tiberius and Domitian had dwarfs in their suites, and the latter kept a band of dwarf gladiators. When they were used in gladiatorial exhibitions they presented a ridiculous contrast to their opponents, men of ordinary size. Alexander Severus put down the custom of keeping toy pigmies ; but it was revived in the middle ages.

The Roman dwarfs commonly went naked, and were decked with jewels. From Dio Cassius we learn that it was the fashion for the Roman ladies of quality to have beautiful little boys running naked about their apartments, in order to gratify their indelicate tastes.

A novel entitled *The Empress*, by G. Bennett, published about 1835, describes a dwarf page of the renowned Agrippina the younger, after she had married her uncle Claudius, and accordingly become Empress of Rome. Of course, this is only a fancy sketch, but as it is a tasteful one, it may be worth

reproduction. "His hair, which was of the richest gold colour, hung in a profusion of shining ringlets over a brow as fair as the most delicate female's; his eyes were of an indistinct colour, approaching to pink, and gave a peculiar expression to his countenance, but not an unpleasant one; his features were pleasing; his complexion healthy; his costume was fancifully composed of a shirt of silver cloth descending to his knees, and bound in at the waist by a jewelled belt, which fastened in the front with a diamond clasp; over this was thrown negligently a Persian shawl of considerable value, with a blue ground, and a deep border of curious workmanship; a small poniard with a jewelled hilt hung at his girdle, and a kind of turban was placed upon the table at which he sat."

Dwarfs formed part of the retinue of William Duke of Normandy, in whose time it was the custom for every lord to use them as pages or valets. They were also employed to hold the bridle of the king's horse in state processions. Domenichino has placed dwarfs in the suite of the Emperor Otho. Raphael has also introduced them in a series of paintings of the history of Constantine; and Velasquez has painted some dwarfs who were attached to the Spanish court, where the most ugly of such deformities were the most valued. At Madrid is a painting by the last-named artist, representing the Infanta Margarita, with her two dwarfs, Maria Borbola and Nicolasico Pertusano, who are teasing a patient dog.

In the Louvre at Paris is a painting by Fran-cesco Torbido of a favourite dwarf of Charles V. of Spain, named Corneille. He is represented on foot, dressed as a knight, his left hand resting on the back of a large dog, which serves to indicate the stature of the dwarf.

Coxe, in his *Travels in Denmark*, tells us that in 1542 King Christian fell into the hands of his enemy, Frederic I., and was made a prisoner in the Castle of Sondeborg, where his place of confinement was a dungeon, with a small grated window. Having entered this gloomy cell with a favourite dwarf, the sole companion of his misery, the door was at once walled up. After a time, the king prevailed on the dwarf to counterfeit sickness, and to solicit his removal from prison for the recovery of his health. If he should be successful, he was to endeavour to escape from the Danish dominions to the court of the Electress. The dwarf, obeying these instructions, feigned illness, and was consequently liberated; whereupon he left the Danish territories on his mission; but he was overtaken and recaptured very soon afterwards. His master remained in captivity many years.

In an article entitled *Règlements de la Maison du Roi*, 1585, mentioned in the tenth volume of *Les Archives Curieuses de l'Histoire de France*, we read that both Charles IX. and his mother had a singular partiality for dwarfs. In 1572, three of them were sent to him as a present from the Emperor of

Germany. In the same year, six score and five livres tournois were paid for the expenses of bringing some dwarfs from Poland to the king. One of these, Majoski, was given to the queen mother; and in the extraets from her accounts we find thirty livres expended for "little disbursements for the said Majoski, as well in elothies, books, pens, paper, and ink, as to the regent of the college;" he therefore must have received a university education. Mention is also made of fifty-three livres tournois being paid to Noel Coehon, governor of the dwarfs; to Rondeau, tailor to the dwarfs, sixty-six livres tournois; and to Yoes Bourdin, valet to the dwarfs, fifty-five livres tournois. Hence we infer that these dwarfs were regularly maintained as important adjuncts to the royal equipage.

Evelyn, in his *Numismata*, 1697, refers to a dwarf named "Mr. Ramus (Pumilo to Thomas Earl Marshal of England), who being learned, and in the magnificent train of that noble lord when he went ambassador to Vienna (about the restitution of the Palatinate to the vanquish'd King of Bohemia), made a speech in Latin before his imperial majesty, with such a grace, and so much eloquence, as merited a golden chain and medal of the emperor."

The very early fashion of having dwarfs as retainers to ornament the homes of princes, has survived until comparatively recent times. John Wierix's Bible, published in 1594, contains an engraving by that artist representing the feast of Dives, with La-

zarus at his door. In the rich man's banqueting-room is a dwarf, playing with a monkey, and contributing to the amusement of the company. In the same book is another plate, by C. De Malery, illustrating the parable of the prodigal son, who is depicted as running away from a woman, who is beating him down the steps of a tavern with her shoes, and is assisted in the assault by two men. A dog upon the steps is barking at the flying spendthrift, and a dwarfish fool has dropped his bauble to mock him, which he does by placing the thumb of his left hand at the end of his nose, the tip of the little finger of the same hand on the top of his right thumb, and spreading out the fingers to the utmost extent, or, in other words, by "taking a sight." These dwarfs are, of course, interpolations in the Bible stories; but they were not, perhaps, wholly anachronisms. In the sixteenth century, when they were portrayed, they were common adjuncts to the tables of the wealthy. Hone in his *Year-Book* for 1832, has reproduced the dwarfs from Wierix's Bible. The *Saturday Magazine* for 1836 contains an engraving of a domestic dwarf and a giant fool, with his bladder and bauble.

In the ducal palace at Mantua are about six very small apartments, leading one into the other, which are said to have been built by a duke of that city for his dwarfs. They are less than six feet high, and about eight feet square. They are now mere bare, whitened rooms, without doors or furniture; but in



one called the kitchen is a raised platform with steps. The ascent to these rooms is by one or two proportionately diminutive flights of steps.

Flögel, in his *Geschichte der Hofnarren*, devotes a chapter to the subject of the formerly widely spread custom of keeping dwarfs as appendages to state and royalty; and Montaigne also refers to it.

Salgues says, “une princesse d’Allemagne entrepît de rassembler un grand nombre de nains des deux sexes; elle les réunit en petits ménages; elle essaye d’en multiplier l’espèce; mais ses vues furent trompées, ils ne produisèrent rien.” The first wife of Joachim Frederie, Elector of Brandenburg, assembled together a number of dwarfs of both sexes, in order to marry them, with a view to multiplying their species; but her attempt was fruitless, and none of them left issue. It is said that Catharine of Medeis practised the same experiment, and with as little success.

Keysler, in the account of his travels in the middle of the eighteenth century, tells us, that at the castle of Ambras, in the Tyrol, was a wooden image only three spans high, representing a dwarf who lived in the Archduke Ferdinand’s court. Aymon, a giant, frequently bantered the dwarf on his diminutive figure; and out of revenge, the latter privately desired the duke that, when at table, he would drop one of his gloves, and order Aymon to take it up. The dwarf in the mean time crept under the duke’s chair, and while Aymon was stooping for the glove

the dwarf gave him a blow on the face, to the great diversion of all the company.\*

A writer in 1745, referring to the Loango kingdom, in West Africa, says: "Before the king's cloth sit some dwarfs, with their backs towards him; their heads are of a prodigious bigness; but, for some deformity, they wear the skin of some beast tied about them. The blacks say there is a wilderness where reside none but men of such a stature, who shoot the elephants. The common name of these pigmies is Bakke Bakke; but they are also called Mimos."

Porter, in his *Travels in Russia and Sweden*, in 1805-1808, tells us, that the practice of keeping fools and dwarfs in the houses of the nobles much prevailed in the former country; and, after praising nature for having made so few female dwarfs, he says that dwarfs "are here the pages and the playthings of the great; and at almost all entertainments stand for hours by their lord's chair, holding his snuff-box, or awaiting his commands. There is scarcely a nobleman in this country who is not possessed of one or more of these frisks of nature; but in their selection I cannot say that the noblesse display their gallantry, as they choose none but males. These little beings are generally the gayest drest persons in the service of their lord, and are attired in a uniform or livery of very costly materials. In the presence of their owner, their usual station is at his

\* Vide page 88.

elbow, in the character of a page; and during his absence, they are then responsible for the cleanliness and combed locks of their companions of the canine species. The race of these unfortunates is very diminutive in Russia, and very numerous. They are generally well-shaped; and their hands and feet particularly graceful. Indeed, in the proportion of their figures, we should nowhere discover them to be flaws in the economy of nature, were it not for a peculiarity of feature and the size of the head, which is commonly exceedingly enlarged. Take them on the whole, they are such compact and even pretty little beings, that no idea can be formed of them from the clumsy deformed dwarfs which are exhibited at our fairs in England. I cannot say that we need envy Russia this part of her offspring. It is very curious to observe how nearly they resemble each other; their features are all so alike that you might easily imagine that one pair had spread their progeny over the whole country."

The author then gives some anecdotes of dwarfs whom he saw, particularly of the Governor of Moscow's dwarf, "whose features and expression have an appearance to the eye as if he washed his face with alum-water." Porter candidly admits that it may be difficult to imagine this sort of expression; but he adds that it is "a sort of wizened, sharp look, inconceivable unless you saw it."

Captain Colville Frankland, in his *Narrative of a Visit to the Courts of Russia and Sweden*, in 1830

and 1831, says: "Madame Divoff, like many other Russian ladies, has a dwarf in her house, who remains constantly with the company. He is less ugly and disagreeable than others of his species. La Princesse Serge Gallitzin has a little fellow of this sort; the Lisianskis have also one in constant attendance. The pretty Mademoiselle Rosetti, two evenings ago, kept carressing the dwarf at Madame Divoff's ball. ('Beauty and the Beast,' said I to her; 'Zemir et Azor.')" "At a very agreeable family party at the Prince Paul Gallitzin's were masks, and a party of male and female dwarfs; these droll little urchins were all very well made and good-looking; they frisked and frolicked about with the children of the house as if they themselves were not (as in reality they were) men and women, but children likewise. One of these poor little mortals, equipped as an officer of hussars, danced a mazurka with great grace and activity, and selected for his partner the gouvernante, a fine, fat, bouncing woman of twenty-five. He likewise, at my request, sang a Russian romance, which he accompanied on the pianoforte; his voice was a very plaintive but weak barytone. The kindness of the Russian nobles to these unfortunate beings does infinite honour to the national character."

Frankland, writing of Hamburg, in the same work, says: "Hideously deformed dwarfs haunt the streets and promenades of the good town; and the eye of the observer, after having rested with

complacency on the round and well-turned form of the smart soubrette, reverts with horror to the miserable Flibbertigibbets which abound in a frightful proportion to the whole population."

Dr. Clarke, in his *Travels* through Denmark, Sweden, Lapland, Finland, Norway, and Russia, in 1823, says that the Olanders are a strong and vigorous people, but short; they are dram-drinkers from their youth. He saw mothers pouring raw spirits down the throats of infants; and to this custom he ascribes both their small size and the frequency of dwarfs in the northern countries of Europe; as in Poland, Russia, and Sweden.

The Turks have kept dwarfs in their palaces from very early times. Hakluyt, writing in his *Voyage*, at the end of the sixteenth century, tells us that within a "court yard were the Turks' dwarves and dumbe men, being most of them youths."

Byron, in his *Don Juan*, gives many passages about the dwarfs who were kept for amusement and ornament in the East. In a scene laid in a Greek island he says:

"Afar a dwarf buffoon stood telling tales  
 To a sedate gray circle of old smokers,  
 Of secret treasures found in hidden vales,  
 Of wonderful replies from Arab jokers,  
 Of charms to make good gold and cure bad ails,  
 Of rocks bewitch'd that open'd to the knockers,  
 Of magic ladies who, by one sole act,  
 Transform'd their lords to beasts (but that's a fact).

\* \* \* \* \*



Gazelles and cats,  
 And dwarfs and blacks, and suchlike things, that gain  
 Their bread as ministers and favourites—(that's  
 To say, by degradatiou)—mingled there  
 As plentiful as in a court or fair.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now they were diverted by their suite,  
 Dwarfs, dancing-girls, black eunuchs, and a poet,  
 Which made their new establishment complete."

Changing the scene to the Sultan's palace in Turkey,  
 he says :

"This massy portal stood at the wide close  
 Of a huge hall, and on its either side  
 Two little dwarfs, the least you could suppose,  
 Were sate, like ugly imps, as if allied  
 In mockery to the enormous gate which rose  
 O'er them in almost pyramidic pride ;  
 The gate so splendid was in all its features,  
 You never thought about those little creatures,

Until you nearly trod on them, and then  
 You started back in horror to survey  
 The wond'rous hideousness of those small men,  
 Whose colour was not black, nor white, nor gray,  
 But an extraneous mixture, which no pen  
 Can trace, although perhaps the pencil may ;  
 They were misshapen pigmies, deaf and dumb—  
 Monsters, who cost a no less monstrous sum.

Their duty was—for they were strong, and though  
 They look'd so little, did strong things at times—  
 To ope this door, which they could really do,  
 The hinges being as smooth as Rogers' rhymes ;  
 And now and then with tough strings of the bow,  
 As is the custom of those eastern climes,  
 To give some rebel Pasha a cravat ;  
 For mutes are generally used for that.

They spoke by sigus—that is, not spoke at all ;  
 And looking like two incubi, they glared  
 As Baba with his fingers made them fall  
 To heaving back the portal folds : it scared

Juan a moment, as this pair so small  
 With shrinking serpent optics on him stared ;  
 It was as if their little looks could poison  
 Or fascinate whome'er they fix'd their eyes on."

Byron seems to have had no taste for diminutive ladies, for he, with more force than politeness, says :

" Her stature tall—I hate a dumpy woman."

Diodorus says that Bocchor, an early king of Egypt, was of very low stature ; but he far exceeded all his predecessors in policy and discretion.

Philetas, a grammarian and poet of Cos, in the reigns of Philip and his son Alexander the Great (who, by the way, was a short man), was so small and slender, according to the improbable accounts of Ælian, that he always carried pieces of lead in his pockets to prevent himself from being blown away by the wind. He was made preceptor to Ptolemy Philadelphus ; and the elegies and epigrams which he wrote have been greatly commended.

Varro says, that Marius Maximus and Marcus Tullius, two gentlemen, and members of the equestrian order of Rome, were each only two cubits, or about two feet eleven inches high. Pliny says ; " I have myself seen them preserved in their coffins (*loculis*). " He adds : " It is far from an unknown fact that children are occasionally born a foot and a half in height, and sometimes a little more ; such children, however, have finished their span of existence by the time they are three years old."

Alypius of Alexandria, a logician and philoso-

pher, was, it is said by the ancient historians, only one foot five inches and a half high. He flourished in the fourth century, and was contemporary with Jamblicus. He was one of the most subtle dialecticians of his time, was much followed, and drew away the hearers of Jamblicus. This occasioned some conferences between them, but no animosity, as the latter wrote his life, in which he praised his virtue and steadiness of mind. Alypius died very old, at Alexandria. If the above-given height be correct, which we much doubt, he was one of the smallest adult dwarfs of whom we have any information.

When Croesus, the wise king of Lydia, invited Anacharsis, the philosopher, to his court, he is said to have written thus of himself: "That although nature had made him deformed, crook-backed, one-eyed, lame of a leg, a dwarf, and as it were a monster among men, yet he thought himself so monstrous in nothing as in that he had no philosopher in his court and of his council."

C. Licinius Calvus, a celebrated orator and poet in the time of Cicero, with whom he contended for superiority in eloquence, was of a very short stature. He is said to have stood upon a pile of turfs in the market-place, for the purpose of addressing a crowd in reference to Cato, against whom this dwarf pleaded in an action.

Charaeus, one of the wisest counsellors of Saladin, the great conqueror of the East in the

twelfth century, was a man of exceedingly small stature.

In 1306 lived Uladislaus Cubitalis, the pigmy king of Poland, who fought more battles, and obtained more glorious victories, than any of his full-sized predecessors.

Fuller, in his *Worthies*, under the head of 'Norfolk,' says: "John Baconthorpe was born in a village so called, in this county; bred a Carmelite in the convent of Blackney, and afterwards studied first in Oxford, then in Paris: one remarkable on many accounts. First, for the dwarfishness of his stature. 'Sealpellum, ealami, atramentum, charta, libellus.' His penknife, pen, inkhorn, one sheet of paper, and any of his books, would amount to his full height. As for all his books of his own making put together, their burden were more than his body could bear." He died in 1346.

Sabinus says, in his commentary upon the *Metamorphoses*, that there was then lately to be seen in Italy a man of a ripe age, who was not above a cubit high, and who was carried about in a parrot's cage. Hierome Cardan saw this man in the same country, and confirms the above story; which is matched by another told in more recent times by Wanley, in his *Wonders of the Little World*, who says that he was informed by a gentleman of a clear reputation that he had seen at Sienna a man not exceeding the stature of the man whom Cardan saw. He was a Frenchman, of Limosin, having a formal beard, and

was shown in a cage for money. At the end of the cage was a little hatch, into which he retired ; and when the assembly was full he came forth, and played on an instrument.

About 1555 was born John Deeker, or Dueker, an English dwarf, who was exhibited abroad in 1610, and of whom Platerus says, under the date of the latter year : " I saw John Dueker, an Englishman, whom some of his countrymen carried up and down to get money by the sight of him. I have his picture by me, drawn at full length : he was about forty-five years of age, as far as might be discerned by his face, which now began to be wrinkled ; he had a long beard, and was only two feet and a half high, otherwise of straight and thick limbs, and well proportioned : less than he I have never seen."

Granger, in his *Biographical Dictionary*, 1824, says of John Jervis, the dwarf : " The resemblance of this diminutive person is preserved by his statue, most inimitably carved in oak, and coloured to resemble life. All that is known of his history is, that he was in height but three feet eight inches, and was retained by Queen Mary as her page of honour. He died in the year 1558, aged fifty-seven years, as appears by the dates painted on the girdle at the back of the statue in the possession of George Walker, Esq., Winehester-row, Lisson-green, Paddington." An engraving of Jervis, by Walker and Clamp, is given in Caulfield's *Remarkable Persons*.

Theodore Zuinger, in his *Theatrum Vitæ Humanæ*,



1571, says that two of the Molones were remarkable for the shortness of their stature. One of them was an aetor in plays and interludes; and the other was a famous highway robber. They were so little that their names passed into a proverb, applicable to a short man, of whom men said, "He was as very a dwarf as Molone."

In 1575 died, at the age of ninety-two years, William Emerson, who was, it is said, only one foot three inches high :

" Under a tea-cup he might lie,  
Or creased like dog's-ears in a folio."

Sarrett, in his *Picture of London*, 1803, says that against the wall of the elink or manor of Southwark was an extremely diminutive figure, representing this dwarf, half-naked and quite emaciated, lying in his shroud on a mat, which was uncommonly well executed.

Stow, in his *Chronicle*, says: " In the yeare 1581 were to be seene in London two Dutelmen of strange statures, the one in height seven foote and seven inches. . . . The other was in height but three foote, had never a goode foote, nor any knee at all, and yet could hee daunce a galliard; hee had no arme, but a stumpe to the elbow, a little more on the right side, on the which, singing, hee would daunce a eup, and after tosse it above three or foure times, and every time reeeive the same on the said stumpe: he would shoote an arrow neere to the marke, flourish with a rapire, throw a bowle, beat with a hammer, hew with an axe, sound a trumpet, and drink every day ten

quarts of the best beere if he could get it. I myselfe on the 17 of July, saw the taller man sitting on a bench bare-headed, and the lesser standing on the same bench, and having on his head a hat with a feather, was yet the lower. Also the taller man standing on his feet, the lesser (with his hat and feather on his head) went vpright between his legs and touched him not.”\*

Stow tells us that in his day, among the usual exhibitions at Bartholomew Fair were wonderful and monstrous creatures, such as giants and dwarfs.

Shakspeare makes several references to dwarfs. In the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, act iii. sc. 2, Robin, Falstaff's page, says to Mistress Page: “I had rather, forsooth, go before you like a man than follow him (his burly master) like a dwarf.” In *A Midsummer-Night's Dream*, act iii. sc. 2, Hermia, speaking of Helena and Lysander, says:

“ Now I perceive that she hath made compare  
Between our statures ; she hath urg'd her height ;  
And with her personage, her tall personage,  
Her height forsooth, she hath prevail'd with him.  
And are you grown so high in his esteem,  
Because I am so dwarfish and so low ?  
How low am I, thou painted maypole ? speak ;  
How low am I ? ”

Lysander, addressing Hermia in the same scene, says :

“ Get you gone, you dwarf ;  
You minimus, of hind'ring knot-grass made ;  
You bead, you acorn ! ”

\* Vide page 96.

In the *Taming of the Shrew*, act i. se. 2, Grumio says of Petruccio, "Give him gold enough, and marry him to a puppet, or an aglet-baby," meaning a diminutive being, not exceeding the length of the tag of a point, or aiguillette. In the First Part of *Henry VI.* act ii. se. 3, the Countess says of Talbot :

"I thought I should have seen some Hercules,  
A second Hector, for his grim aspect,  
And large proportion of his strong-knit limbs.  
Alas, this is a child, a silly dwarf."

In *Troilus and Cressida*, act ii. se. 3, Agamemnon says :

"A stirring dwarf we do allowance give  
Before a sleeping giant."

Edmund Spenser, in his *Fairy Queen*, 1589, invented a dwarf for the service of Florimel.

Among the new-year's gifts presented by Queen Elizabeth on January 1st, 1584-5, at Greenwich, was the following : "To Mrs. Tomysen, the dwarf, two ounces of gilt plate."

John de Estrix, of Meehlin, was brought to the Duke of Parma in 1592, when he was thirty-five years of age. He was skilled in three languages, had a long beard, and was not more than three feet high. He could not go upstairs, nor get upon a seat, but was always lifted up by a servant. He was learned, ingenious, and industrious.

Charles Lamb wrote a story, entitled *Cupid's Revenge*, founded upon Beaumont and Fletcher's play

of the same name, performed before the Court in 1612, in which he introduced the Princess Hidaspes, who, by the venom of an "inward pestilence, came on a sudden to cast eyes of affection upon a mean and deformed creature, Zoilus by name, who was a dwarf, and lived about the palace, the common jest of the courtiers. In her besotted eyes he was grown a goodly gentleman." She married him; "but the ceremony was no sooner—to the derision of all present—performed, than, with the just feelings of an outraged parent," her father "commanded the head of the presumptuous bridegroom to be stricken off, and committed the distracted princess elose prisoner to her ehamber; where, after many deadly swoonings, with intermingled outeries upon the cruelty of her father, she in no long time after died."

About 1615 was born Richard Gibson, commonly called the Dwarf, to distinguish him from his nephew William Gibson. He was a pupil of De Cleyn, master of the tapestry works to Charles I. He improved himself in his art under Sir Peter Lely, whose manner he successfully imitated, and he was late in life appointed drawing-master to the Princesses Mary and Anne, afterwards queens of England. He went over to Holland on purpose to instruct the former. He sometimes painted historical pieces, but afterwards applied himself chiefly to miniature portraits. He drew that of Cromwell several times. His works were much valued, and one of them was the cause

of a tragical event. This painting, representing the parable of the Lost Sheep, was highly prized by Charles I., who gave it into the charge of Vandervort, the keeper of the royal pictures, with strict orders to take the greatest care of it. In obedience to these injunctions, the custodian put the picture away so carefully that he could not find it himself when the king asked for it shortly afterwards. Afraid to say that he had mislaid it, Vandervort committed suicide by hanging. A few days after his death the picture was found in the spot where he had placed it.

In Gibson's capacity of court dwarf to Charles I., that king appointed him page of the back-stairs. He married Anne Shepherd, who was court dwarf to Queen Henrietta Maria. Her majesty, it is said, encouraged a union between them, and was present at their nuptials, Charles I. giving away the bride, and the queen presenting her with a diamond ring as a bridal gift. Edmund Waller, the court poet, celebrated the wedding in some very neat verses, entitled *Of the Marriage of the Dwarfs*.

“Design, or chance, make others wive ;  
But Nature did this match contrive :  
Eve might as well have Adam fled,  
As she deny'd her little bed  
To him, for whom Heav'n seem'd to frame  
And measure out this only dame.

Thrice happy is that humble pair,  
Beneath the level of all care,  
Over whose heads those arrows fly  
Of sad distrust and jealousy ;  
Secur'd in as high extreme  
As if the world held none but them.



To him the fairest nymphs do show  
 Like moving mountains topp'd with snow ;  
 And every man a Polypheme  
 Does to his Galatea seem :  
 None may presume her faith to prove ;  
 He proffers death that proffers love.

Ah, Chloris ! that kind Nature thus  
 From all the world had sever'd us ;  
 Creating for ourselves us two,  
 As love has me for only you !”

The marriage was a very happy one, and the issue of it were nine children, five of whom lived to years of maturity, and were of the full ordinary size. The height of the parent dwarfs was exactly equal, each being three feet ten inches high. Richard Gibson died on July 23d, 1690, at the age of seventy-five years. He was born during the reign of James I., saw the glories and the troubles of Charles I., Cromwell, Charles II., and James II., and died early in the reign of William and Mary. His widow died in 1709, at the age of eighty-nine : Nature thus, by length of years, compensating this eompendious couple, as Evelyn calls them, for shortness of stature. They both appear in one plate in Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting*, the engraver being A. Walker. Mrs. Gibson's portrait, by Vandyke, is in a picture with the Duchess of Richmond, at Wilton.

In a newspaper of 1803 appeared the following advertisement relating to the descendants of Mr. Gibson. It is incorrect in some of its details. “Mr. Richard Gibson, the dwarf, an eminent painter in

the time of King Charles the First. Any person being his lineal or collateral descendant, by furnishing the particulars of his or her pedigree in writing, with evidence in proof thereof, to Mr. Thomas Gill, Attorney-at-law, No. 6 Old North-street, Red Lion-square, London, may hear of something to such claimant's advantage. Mr. Gibson was only three feet ten inches high, and married Mrs. Anne Sheppard, who was nearly of the same size, by whom he had nine children. He was introduced at court, and patronised by the king, who honoured his marriage with his presence, and gave away the bride. Mr. Gibson died about the year 1689, Mrs. Gibson about the year 1709."

Jeffrey Hudson, the famous dwarf, was born in 1619 at Oakham, in Rutlandshire. Fuller says, "his father (John Hudson) was a very proper man, broad-shouldered and chested, though his son never arrived at a full ell in stature." Wright also, in his *History of Rutlandshire*, says the father was a person of lusty stature, and all his children, except Jeffrey, were of full size. The mother was of no mean altitude. John Hudson "kept and ordered the baiting-bulls for George Duke of Buckingham (a place you will say requiring a robustious body to manage it)," says Fuller. This was at Burleigh-on-the-Hill, where Jeffrey was presented by his father to the Duchess of Buckingham, when he was between seven and nine years of age, without any deformity, wholly proportionable, and scarce a foot and a half in height, as Fuller was informed by John Armstrong,

of Cheshunt, a credible person, and a living and eye-witness. Instantly Jeffrey was heightened, not in stature but in condition, from one degree above rags into silk and satin; and he had two tall men to attend upon him.

A story is told, that “an old gossip having invited some tattle-baskets to a junketing bout, some arch wags stole her cat Rutterkin, flayed him, dress’d Jeffrey in his skin, and convey’d him into the room. When the feast was near over, and cheese set upon the table, one of the females offer’d Rutterkin a bit—‘Rutterkin can help himself when he is hungry,’ said Jeffrey, and so nimbly made downstairs. The women all started up in the greatest confusion and clamour imaginable, crying out, ‘A witch, a witch! with her talking cat!’ But the joke was soon after found out, otherwise the poor woman might have suffer’d for it.”

Soon after the marriage of Charles I., that king and his queen were entertained at Burleigh, during a progress through Rutlandshire, on which occasion Jeffrey was served up to table in a cold pie, armed and accoutred, and presented by the Duchess to Henrietta Maria, who kept him as her dwarf for many years afterwards. The ladies of the court were very fond of him. He is said to have scraped an acquaintance with the queen’s monkey, with whom, as a source of amusement, he was an equal. He was much teased by the courtiers and domestics of the royal palace, and had many squabbles with the giant porter thereof.

“It was a strange contrast to see him and the king’s gigantic porter, William Evans, together; particularly in that anti-masque at court where the porter lugged out of one pocket a long loaf, and little Jeffrey instead of a sliver of cheese out of the other. Once as he was washing his face and hands he had like to have been drowned in his basin. Another day he had been blown into the Thames but for a spreading shrub that saved him.” Over the entrance to a court in Newgate-street, fixed in the front of a house, probably as a sign, is a stone bas-relief representing Evans and Hudson, and inscribed, “M.P.A. (probably the initials of the builder) The King’s Porter and Dwarf.” This stone has been fixed there above two hundred years, and is therefore contemporary with the individuals which it celebrates. It is engraved in Pennant’s *London*, and in the *History of Signboards* by Larwood and Hotten.\*

The king bestowed knighthood on Jeffrey in a frolic. Being so much favoured by royalty he seems to have forgotten the humility of his birth. “Hee was high in mind, not knowing himself, and hee would not knowe his father, for which by the king’s command he was soundly corrected.”

Jeffrey, according to his own statement, remained at the height of eighteen inches from the age of eight until the age of thirty years, after which period he increased to three feet nine inches in stature, and there remained. Sir Walter Scott, in his *Peveril of*

\* Vide page 108.

*the Peak*, makes him play an important part in bringing about the *dénouement* of that tale, and thus describes him: "He, although a dwarf of the least possible size, had nothing positively ugly in his countenancè, or actually distorted in his limbs. His head, hands, and feet were indeed large, and disproportioned to the height of his body, and his body itself much thicker than was consistent with symmetry, but in a degree which was rather ridiculous than disagreeable to look upon. His countenance in particular, had he been a little taller, would have been accounted, in youth, handsome, and now in age, striking and expressive; it was but the uncommon disproportion betwixt the head and the trunk which made the features seem whimsical and bizarre—an effect which was considerably increased by the dwarf's moustaches, which it was his pleasure to wear so large that they almost twisted back amongst and mingled with his grizzled hair."

"Degenerate youth, and not of Tydeus' kind,  
Whose little body lodged a mighty mind."

Jeffrey was employed in some diplomatic missions of great importance. In 1630 he was sent to France to fetch a midwife for Queen Henrietta Maria; and on his return with this lady and her majesty's dancing-master, and with many rich presents to the queen from her mother Mary de Medicis, he was taken prisoner at sea by some Dunkirk privateers. Not only did he lose the property of his mistress which he had



in charge, but also effects of his own to the value of about 2,500*l.*, which had been given to him in France by the court there. Apropos of this event, Sir William Davenant wrote a poem, first printed in 1638, and entitled *Jeffreidos*, of which this dwarf was the subject, and in which the writer supposes a combat between Jeffrey and a turkey-cock, the scene being laid at Dunkirk. The poem describes the vessel in which Jeffrey sailed as an old and small one, not capable of the slightest resistance when boarded; his examination by the Dutchmen, who found him hid under a candlestick; the establishment of his freedom from state plots; his being sent off to Brussels; his falling by the way; and his danger from a turkey-cock, who determined to swallow him like a grain of wheat; the battle which ensued; and the timely intervention of the midwife, who rescued him from peril:

“ For Jeff’ry strait was throwne ; whilst faint and weake,  
 The cruell foe assaults him with his beake.  
 A lady-midwife now, he there by chance  
 Espy’d, that came along with him from France ;  
 ‘ A heart nurs’d up in war ; that ne’er before  
 This time (quoth he) could bow, now doth implore :  
 Thou, that deliver’d hast so many, be  
 So kinde of nature, to deliver me ! ”

A very diminutive, singular, and extremely rare volume written in defence of Jeffrey, was published in 1636; it was entitled “The New Year’s Gift, presented at court from the Lady Parvula to the Lord Minimus (commonly called Little Jeffrey), her Majesty’s servant; with a letter penned in short-

hand, wherein is proved that little things are better than great. Written by Microphilus." Prefixed is a small whole-length portrait of Jeffrey, engraved by Martin Droeshout. A correspondent to Hone's *Year-Book* for 1834, says, that among the books of Mr. Nassau, brother to Lord Rochford, sold by Evans of Pall Mall, in February, 1824, was a copy of this book; and under a scarce portrait of the dwarf inserted therein were these lines:

"Gaze on with wonder, and discern in me  
The abstract of the world's epitome."

Heath in his *Clarastella*, 1658, thus addressed Jeffrey:

"Small sir! methinkes in your lesser selfe I see  
Exprest the lesser world's epitome.  
You may write man, in th' abstract so you are,  
Though printed in a smaller character.  
The pocket volume hath as much within 't  
As the broad folio in a larger print,  
And is more useful too. Though low you seem,  
Yet you're both great and high in men's esteem;  
Your soul's as large as others, so's your mind:  
To greatness virtue's not like strength confin'd."

Jeffrey was taken prisoner by a Turkish pirate, and having been conveyed into Barbary, was there sold as a slave, in which condition he was exposed to many hardships and much labour. He was, however, redeemed; and he then returned to England. He ascribed his increase in stature to the severity that he experienced while in captivity.

After the commencement of the civil wars he became a captain of horse in the royal army, and in 1644 he accompanied the queen to France. Here

he engaged in a dispute with Mr. Crofts, brother to Lord Crofts, and being offended he challenged him to fight a duel. Jeffrey was a person who was ready to follow the advice of the citizen and his wife in Fletcher's *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, who, when they were asked what the principal person of the drama should do, said: "Marry, let him come forth and kill a giant."

Mr. Crofts accepted the challenge, but deeming the little man beneath his anger, he came to the rendezvous armed only with a squirt. This so enraged Jeffrey that a real duel ensued, and the appointment being on horseback, to put them more on a level, Jeffrey with the first fire shot his antagonist dead. This happened about 1653, and for the offence Jeffrey was first imprisoned, and afterwards he was expelled the court. He ultimately returned to England, and lived for some time in his native country on several small pensions allowed him by the Duke of Buckingham and other persons of rank. He afterwards removed to London, where he was arrested as a papist on suspicions respecting the Popish plot, and he was confined in the Gate-house, Westminster, for some time. He died in 1682, shortly after his release from prison, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Walpole, in his *Anecdotes of Painting*, under the life of Daniel Mytens, says: "At St. James's is Jeffrey Hndson, the dwarf, holding a dog by a string, in a landscape, coloured warmly and freely, like Snyder or Rubens. Mytens drew the same

figure in a very large picture of Charles I. and his queen, which was in the possession of the late Earl of Dunmore; but the single figure is much better painted." A full-length portrait of Jeffrey, in a red dress, with a landscape background, by D. Mytens, is now at Hampton Court Palace. This picture is dated 1650, and is on canvas, the size being eighty-four inches by fifty-seven inches. At Petworth was Jeffrey's whole-length portrait with Henrietta Maria by Vandyke. Another portrait was in the possession of Lord Milton.

In Caulfield's *Remarkable Persons* is an engraving of Jeffrey. In 1800 he was depicted by S. Sparrow in a view of Theobalds. In 1810 James Stow engraved Mytens's whole-length portrait of Jeffrey with a dog. B. Reading engraved in facsimile the original print by Martin Droeshout, to which we have before referred. G. P. Harding, in his *Biographical Mirror*, has copied a full-length portrait of Jeffrey from a painting by Mytens, in the collection of Sir Ralph Woodford. Jeffrey's waistcoat of blue satin, slashed and ornamented with pinked white silk, and his breeches and stockings in one piece of blue satin, are preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

Sir Christopher Wren, who was born in 1632, and died in 1723, was probably below the common size; as when Charles II. told him that he thought the apartments in his hunting-palace at Newmarket were too low, the architect, looking up, replied, "Sir,

I think they are high enough." The king, stooping to Wren's height, and creeping about in a whimsical posture, exclaimed, "Ay, Sir Christopher, I think they are high enough."

Sir Isaac Newton, who was born in 1642, is said to have been a posthumous child, his father dying at the age of ninety-six years. The infant at his birth was of such an extremely diminutive size, and seemed of so perishable a frame, that two women who were sent to Lady Pakenham's, at North Witham, to bring some medicine to strengthen him, did not expect to find him alive on their return. Brewster states, that Sir Isaac told Mr. Conduit that he had often heard his mother say, that when he was born he was so little that he might have been put into a quart mug.

Ashmole has left a memorandum, dated in 1652, that the famous Little John, Robin Hood's companion, lies buried in Fethersedge churchyard, in the Peak of Derbyshire. A stone was at his head, another was at his feet, and part of his bow hung up in the chancel. As Prior says:

"All must obey the general doom,  
Down from Alcides to Tom Thumb.  
Grim Pluto will not be withstood  
By force or craft. Tall Robin Hood,  
As well as Little John, is dead."

An ancient and very rare foreign engraving in the possession of the author represents the full-length figure of a dwarf standing on a checkered floor. He



has a large head, which is bald, a wide open forehead, a small moustache, and a long beard. He wears a short braided tunic, baggy breeches, stockings, and buckled shoes. His hands are clasped in front of him, and he has the appearance of a man in thought. A superscription in French tells us that his name was Gomme Lapon, and that he “est habitant des frontières des Sauvages;” his age was about one hundred and ten years, and his height two feet four inches; he was very well shaped and proportioned, “joli de figure;” and his white beard was more than a foot long. This engraving is undated, but we conjecture that it was issued about the middle of the seventeenth century.

Reginald Scot, in his *Discovery of Witchcraft*, 1665, complains that domestic servants so frightened children with stories of dwarfs, gyants, and other imaginary characters, that they were afraid of their own shadows.

A work entitled *Miscellanea Curiosa, Medica, Physica*, published at Leipzig in 1670, tells us that a way of dwarfing men was by anointing their backbones in their very infancy with the grease of moles, bats, and dormice.

Burton, in his *Anatomy of Melancholy*, published in the seventeenth century, says that giants and dwarfs, meaning probably artificial ones, were among the ordinary domestic recreations of the people during the winter.

## CHAPTER XII.

Matthew Buchinger—his Writings—wonderful Feats—his Wives—his Elegy and Epitaph—Oxfordshire Dwarf—Wonder of Nature—Short Jannettie and Tall Jacob—Hannah Warton—John Wormbergh—Medals for Dwarfs—Changeling Child—Dwarf at Bartholomew Fair—Anne Rouse—Scotch Dwarf—German Dwarf—Hannah Wood—Fairy Women—Dwarf who never chewed Bread—Salisbury Dwarf—Persian Dwarf—his strong Feats—Dwarf Man, Woman, and Horse—Letter to the *Spectator*—Black Prince—Peter the Great and Dwarfs—The Short Club and the Tall Club—Owen Farrel—John Coan—Verses repeated by him to Royal Family—Danish Dwarf—Plymouth Dwarf—Epigram on a Dwarf—Dwarf Greenlander—Dwarf Family at Nuremberg—Dwarf from France—his Feats—Dutch Dwarf—John Grimes—Court Dwarf—William Butler—Dwarf's posture while sleeping.

IN 1674 was born, at Anspack, Matthew Buchinger, a dwarf, without hands, feet, legs, or thighs; in short, he was little more than the trunk of a man, except that he had what Caulfield describes as “two excrescences growing from the shoulder-blades, more resembling fins of a fish than arms of a man;” but who nevertheless was able to write well, and to perform many curious and active tricks. He was twenty-nine inches in height. Early in the eighteenth century he came to England, where he exhibited himself publicly, and was patronised by George I., and particularly by Robert Harley Earl of Oxford. It seems that he appeared in public at Nuremberg before he came to this country.

Mr. J. J. Fillinham, in 1862, had in his collection a coarse half-sheet of foreign etching, representing Buehinger whole-length, standing on a cushion in a laced military dress and hat, in a large apartment, by a table, with a musket and writing-materials. Beneath, in his own writing, was the following inscription: "A.B.C. Ieh Matthias C.B.A. Buehinger, habe Diessers ohne hände und fuss gedruet: Anno 1709, Nierberg."

In *Smith's Historical and Literary Curiosities* is a fac-simile of the calligraphic exhibition bill of Buehinger, sent by him to the Earl of Oxford in 1717, and now preserved among the Harleian Mss. in the British Museum. At the top is a coat of arms. The bill runs as follows: "By authority. Lately arriv'd, and to be seen at the Globe, and Duke of Marlborough's H— (*sic*), in Fleet-street, a German, born withoht (*sic*) hands, feet, or thighs (that never was in this kingdom before) who does such miraculous actions as none else can do with hands and feet. He has had the honour to perform before most kings and princees, particularly several times before King George. He makes a pen, and writes several hands as quick and as well as any writing-master, and will write with any for a wager; he draws faces to the life, and coats of armes, pictures, flowers, &c., with a pen, very curiously. He threads a fine needle very quick; shuffles a pack of cards, and deals them very swift. He plays upon the duleimer as well as any musieian; he does many surprizing things with

eups and balls, and gives the curious great satisfaction thereby; he plays at skittles several ways very well; shaves himself very dexterously; and many other things, too tedious to insert. This is written by Matthew Buchinger at London, 171 $\frac{6}{7}$ ; born without hands and feet at Anspaek, 1674, the 3 Jan<sup>y</sup>."

In November, 1723, he issued the following advertisement: "To all noblemen, gentlemen, ladies, and others. There is lately arrived in this great city a most surprizing artist, who performs the nicest curiosities to the greatest wonder and astonishment of all spectators: and though but twenty-nine inches high, and wanting the useful benefits of nature, having neither hands, feet, or thighs, yet he exceeds all persons who enjoy those happy advantages, in their several faculties, viz.: he plays on various sorts of musiek, as the hautboy, and strange flute in consort with the bagpipe, dulcimer, and trumpet, which is esteemed the greatest curiosity by the most ingenious musicians of the age. With no less dexterity does he make his own pens, and writes several hands so very curiously, that the most ingenious writing-masters can scarcely parallize him: he also draws pictures even to the life, and coats of arms with the greatest exactness, both these he performs with his pen. Besides all this, he threads a needle with the greatest expedition, performs several conveyances in legerdemain with admirable dexterity, plays at skittles or ninepins to a great nicety, and performs many other curious diversions to the general satisfaction of all

beholders. Such wonderful performances have gained him the honour of performing before three emperors, and most of the kings and princes in Europe, and in particular several times before his Majesty King George. N.B. He is daily at work in his room, where those that come to see his performances may see him making a curious piece of machinery to play upon the violin and german flute. He performs every day, next door to the Two Blackamoors' Heads in Holbourn, near Southampton-street, exactly at the hours of 10, 12, 2, 4, 6, and 8, which will be punctually observed, that no person may lose any time."

A scarce print gives a portrait of Buehinger on a half-sheet, in a richly-ornamented oval frame. In the curls of his wig are written, in very minute letters, the Psalms cxxi., cxxvii., cxxviii., exxx., exlvi., exlix., and el., and the Lord's Prayer. Below the portrait are the following lines: "London, April the 29th, 1724. This is the effigies of Mr. Matthew Buehinger, being drawn and written by himself. He is the wonderful little man of but twenty-nine inches high, born without hands, feet, or thighs, June the 2nd, 1674, in Germany, in the Marquisate of Brandenburg, near to Nuremburgh. He being the last of nine children, by one father and mother, viz. eight sons and one daughter. The same little man has been married four times, and has had issue eleven children, viz. one by his first wife, three by his second, six by his third, and one by his present wife. This little man performs such wonders as have never



been done by any but himself. He plays on various sorts of music to admiration, as the hautboy, strange flute in consort with the bagpipe, dulcimer, and trumpet; and designs to make machines to play on almost all sorts of music. He is no less eminent for writing, drawing of coats of arms, and pictures to the life, with a pen. He also plays at cards and dice, performs tricks with cups and balls, corn and live birds, and plays at skittles or ninepins to a great nicety, with several other performances, to the general satisfaction of all spectators."

A very fine impression of this plate before the inscription was inserted, or the writing in the wig finished, the latter concluding with the third verse of Psalm cxlvi., was in the collection of Mr. Fillinham, and was probably unique. A small coarse etching of the figure only, copied from this engraving and washed with red, was executed by J. Gleadah. A stippled copy in a square, and a smaller one by G. Scot, have been published; the latter appearing in 1804, in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*. Mr. Fillinham also had Buchinger's portrait in red chalk and pencil, which was ascribed to the dwarf himself.

Caulfield, writing in 1819, says: "The late Mr. Herbert, of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, editor of Ames's *History of Printing*, had many curious specimens of Buchinger's writing and drawing, the most extraordinary of which was his own portrait exquisitely done on vellum, in which he most ingeniously contrived to insert in the flowing curls of the wig the

27th, 121st, 128th, 140th, 149th, and 150th Psalms, together with the Lord's Prayer, most beautifully and fairly written. Mr. Isaac Herbert, son of the former, while carrying on the business of a bookseller in Pall Mall, caused this portrait to be engraved, for which he paid Mr. Harding fifty guineas." In Mr. Fillinham's collection was a beautiful specimen of Buchinger's calligraphy on vellum, being the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, Creed, and other things, in very minute writing, within an architectural design.

A rare half-sheet of foreign engraving, by Lorenz Beger, represents Buchinger whole-length, in a rich laced dress and hat, surrounded by thirteen compartments, in which are represented his various performances, with inscriptions in German beneath them. Another cut represents him whole-length, set on a pedestal with a cushion or hat, and a drum and ink-stand in the background, in an ornamental oval cartouche. This is a copy by R. Grave, and it appears in Caulfield's *Remarkable Persons*, 1819.

In a well-executed broadside by Elias Beck, this dwarf appears in the centre, in a richly-laced coat and cocked hat, surrounded by representations of his feats, as follows: "Draws pictures w<sup>th</sup> a pen—Playing at Dyce—A writing—Makes a Pen—Plays on y<sup>e</sup> Hantboy—Threds a Needle—Plays at Cards—Cups and Balls—Plays on y<sup>e</sup> Dulcimore—Charges a Gun—Blows y<sup>e</sup> Trumpet—Live Birds from under y<sup>e</sup> Cups—Plays at Skittles." At the bottom is given a speci-

men of Buehinger's writing, equalling the finest engraving, to the following effect: "Edinburgh, Febr<sup>y</sup> the 5th, 1728. This was written by Matthew Buehinger, born without hands or feet, in Germany, June the 3<sup>d</sup>, 1674." It seems that he travelled through Seotland to exhibit himself, and he executed an ingenious piece of penmanship for the magistrates or the corporation of Edinburgh.

A handbill now before us runs as follows: "This is to give notice, to all gentlemen, ladies, and others, that the famous Mathew Buehinger, is come to this city of London, and is to be seen at the corner house of Great Suffolk-street, near Charing Cross. The wonderful little man, who is but twenty-nine inches high, born without hands, feet, or thighs, performs such wonders, the like never done by any but himself. He plays on the hautboy, and has improved himself in playing on the strange flute in consort with the bagpipe, duleimer, and trumpet. He is also famous at writing, drawing of coats of arms and pictures, to the life, with a pen. He also plays at cards and dice, and performs tricks with cups and balls, after a more extraordinary and surprising manner than ever yet shewn; and his playing at skittles is most admirable. All these being done without hands, makes all that see him say he is the only artist in the world. His performing such wonders has gained him the honour of shewing before three successive Emperors of Germany, and most of the kings and princes in Europe, in particular several times before his late

majesty King George. He likewise dances a horn-pipe in a highland dress, as well as any man, without legs. With a dance performed by a highland man. The foreseat one shilling, the backseat sixpence. Is to be seen exactly at five o'clock the first shew, and the second at seven. N.B. Gentlemen and ladies may have a private show any hour of the day, if required." The late king herein referred to was George I., who died in 1727.

James Paris, in his *Drawings of Human Prodigies*, 1733, now preserved among the Sloane manuscripts in the British Museum, gives a small water-colour one of Buchinger, whole-length, in a cocked-hat, squatted on a cushion. Paris has written underneath that he saw this dwarf on March 10th, 1731, in London, where also he was at the beginning of June in the same year.

Among the Harleian Mss. are the following specimens of Buchinger's handwriting, besides the exhibition-bill named above: A paper dated February 2d, 1732—"This was written by Matthew Buchinger, born without hands or feet, 1674, in Germany." Another: "Publius Lentulus' Letter to the Senate of Rome concerning our Blessed Lord and Saviour," with an ornamental border surmounted by a portrait of Christ, drawn with a pen and ink in lines and dots. Underneath, in decorated old English, is inscribed: "This was drawn and written by Matthew Buchinger, born without hands or feet in Germany, June 3rd, 1674." Another, being a very beautiful ornamental

letter, addressed to the Earl of Oxford, concerning a fan-mount executed by Buchinger, which had occupied him fifteen months in drawing. The letter, dated Chelmsford, April 14th, 1733, runs as follows :

“ My Lord,—I hope your goodness will excuse my not writing sooner to your Lordship ; I was prevented by an ague and feavour, which have hindered me from doing any thinge for a long time. I have finish'd a curious fan, of my own drawing, which I had not an opportunity till lately, I have send it to your Lord<sup>p</sup> with my wife, and there not being such another piece of my work and I dispair of ever performing the like again, I was feiffteen months a drawing of it, and if your Lord<sup>p</sup> have a fance for it, as for the price I leave it to your Lord<sup>p</sup>, if your Lord<sup>p</sup> shall please to favour me with a line, I shal take it as the greatest honour, that can be confer'd on, my Lord, your Lordships obedient & most humble servant regnilcuB wehtaM [written backwards]. Chelmsford, April the 14, 1733. P.S. My Lord, I make bold to let your Lord<sup>p</sup> know, that we shall go from hence to Colchester. To the Right Honourable The Eacrl of Oxford, London.”

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1791 is a copperplate fac-simile engraving of Buchinger's handwriting, as follows ; the words we have italicised having been written backwards, rather a favourite peculiarity in his caligraphy : “ Ludlow A. B. C. Octob the 20 *C. B. A.* 1734. This was written by *Matthew Buchinger* born without *Hands or feet* 1674 *Germany.*”



This specimen of Buehinger's handwriting has been also copied on wood.

It will be observed that in some of the above-given copies of this dwarf's writings he makes several different statements as to the month, and the day of the month, of his birth. One of Buehinger's four wives was in the habit of treating him very badly, frequently beating and otherwise ill-using him, which conduct he bore very patiently for a long time; but at length his anger was so much kindled that he turned upon her, knocked her down, and severely buffeted her with his stumps; nor would he allow her to rise until she had promised him amendment in the future.

The following petition, presented to the Palatine Commissioners by Buehinger and one of his wives, gives us some details of his married life: "To the right honourable and honourable the Commissioners for the poor Palatines. The humble petition of Mathew Buehinger, a German, and Anna Elizabeth Tyse, his wife, a Palatine, humbly sheweth, that your petitioner, Mathew Buehinger, was born in Germany, without hands, legs, or thighs; that he is married to Anna Elizabeth Tyse, daughter of Mathias Tyse, a Palatine, deceased, whose widow, Margaret Tyse, and some of her children, are now settled under Able Ram, Esq., at Cory, and allowed as a family. That your petitioner hath taken two of the children, viz., John Jost Tyse and Mary Tyse, to maintain them. That your petitioner hath taken two of the

children to maintain them, while your petitioner, by his wonderful arts and God's assistanee, is able to do so. But since the parliament sat, most of the kingdom has visited your petitioner, who is no longer a novelty to them, having shewed through all the kingdom. But your petitioner's expences and great echarges in travelling and keeping servants, who must support the entertainment with musiek and other employments, eats out, wastes, and eonsumes much the greater part of the profit ; so that now your petitioner despairs of getting any more. That your petitioner has six children by his former wives, which he must provide for, and two by this ; so that, if it should please God to take him away, he knows not how those two last, and his present wife, will be provided for ; but his wife being willing to return to the County Wexford, where her mother and the rest of the family live, to settle under Col. Ram. Your petitioners humbly pray, that your petitioner, since he has married one of Mathias Tyse daughters, may be used as other Palatines are, and be allowed to be a family, and to reeeive as other Palatines that marry, the king's bounty, while she resides in this kingdom ; and your petitioners will ever pray. Mathew Buehinger, and Anna Eliz. Buchinger, or Tyse."

An undated book, entitled *Drapier's Miscellany*, published at Dublin, contains the following punning elegy and epitaph on Buchinger :

" Poor *Buckinger* at last is dead and gone,  
A *lifeless Trunk*, who was a *living One* :

TRUNK, did I say, wherein all Virtues met?  
 I shou'd ha' eall'd him a rich CABINET.  
 No wouder in Life's Warfare he shou'd die,  
 Who wanted *Hands* to fight, or *Feet* to fly.  
 Nature to form so great a Life to eome,  
 Wisely took eare to maim him in the Womb.  
 So when we take young Eagles, 'tis thought best  
 To elip their *Wings* and *Talons* in their *Nest*.  
 For lop their *Limbs*, and then the *Soul* confin'd,  
 Collects itself and *double-mans* the Mind.  
 So *Succers* prun'd, or *Fibres* from the Root,  
 Make Trees not *die*, but *flourish* in their Fruit.  
 He was, altho' he had not e'er a Limb,  
 A MAN, I'll prove it, *ev'ry Inch of him*.  
 No huge *two-handed* Man, but when he dy'd,  
 'Twas a GOOD BODY, ev'ry Mortal cry'd.  
 Pious he was, as holiest Devotees,  
 For sure he always was *upon his Knees*.  
 And that he us'd to pray his Widow knows,  
*As often as he Finger had and Toes*.  
 So blameless, he defy'd the World to rail,  
 Or any Man to say, *Black was his Nail*.  
 He never made oue *false Step* all his Life,  
 Except in marrying his second Wife :  
 And tho' they went together in pure Love,  
 They did not hit it, nor were *Hand-and-Glove*.  
 Altho' he suffer'd from her many Ills,  
 A *Clog* he cou'd not call her *at his Heels* ;  
 But sure he might have quitted her in haste,  
 If *Spitting in his Hand was holding fast*.  
 Some said he was a Rake, and strol'd about ;  
 How cou'd he strole, who never *stirr'd a Foot* ?  
 He, of his Pen, had very great Command,  
 If he wrote any, 'twas uo *Running-Hand*.  
 He play'd all Games with Skill, but was most niee,  
 Tho', *without Slight of Hand*, at Cards and Dice ;  
 And tho' he won at Play, yet no one can  
 Say, that he *made a Hand of any Man*.  
 He praetis'd Musiek too, and did appear,  
 Tho' he *no Finger had*, to have an Ear.  
 He visited most Places in the Land ;  
 And rode, but never kept a *Bridle-Hand* :  
 And when he rode, his Horse no Galls did feel,  
 His *Spur was in his Head, not in his Heel*.

He was a Manager we may believe,  
 For he ne'er *thrust his Arm beyond his Sleeve*.  
 And tho' his Bread was but of daily Growth,  
 No Man cou'd say he liv'd from *Hand to Mouth*.  
 Not spiteful ; for altho' provok'd a deal,  
 He ne'er oppos'd a Man with *Tooth and Nail*.  
 He wou'd be reconcil'd with small amends ;  
 And tho' he *shook not Hands*, he wou'd be Friends.  
 Some envious Men thought him dishonest, but  
 He was not *light of Finger or of Foot*.  
 He never *pick'd Men's Pockets*, or their *Locks* ;  
 Or if he had, he might *defy the Stocks*.  
 The Papists wo'nt believe his Pardon scal'd,  
 Because he liv'd and dy'd too *Unanecal'd*.  
 He was no Flatterer, yet apt t' applaud ;  
 Spoke civilly to all Men, never *claw'd*.  
 Nor to his *Wife*, or *other Servants*, rough,  
 He ne'er gave one of them a *Kick or Cuff*.  
 Courteous to all, up to the highest Peg ;  
 If you wou'd *kiss his Hands*, he'd *make y' a Leg*.  
 Inimitable both alive and dead,  
 No Man cou'd ever in his *Footsteps tread*.  
 Compliance with all Humours he has shewn,  
*Any Man's Shoe would fit him as his own*.  
 And yet, not to reflect upon his Dust,  
 He *knew not where his own Shoe pinch'd him most*.  
 No Confidence in cunning Men he put ;  
 No Man *cou'd get the Measure of his Foot*.  
 And yet some Men did with him grow so bold,  
 He could not *keep them at Arm's length*, I'm told.  
 Studious he was, I speak it to his Praise,  
 Yet never *thumb'd a Book* in all his Days ;  
 And that which very much his Sense commends,  
 His Learning was not *at his Fingers ends*.  
 He cou'd not do a *Hand's Turn* with his Ease,  
 But what he did was all with *Elbow-Grease*.  
 As my old Grannam bid me do, he'd cry,  
 I always with my *Elbow scratch my Eye*.  
 He was no Rambler he, but kept the House,  
 And wealthy grew, but never *serap'd a Sous*.  
 Nor was *close-fisted* more than you or I,  
 Nor had his *Hand upon his Ha'penny* ;  
 And yet, for Fear of Debt, or being dipt,  
 His Money never thro' his *Fingers slipt*.

'Twas safe to trust him, for he never *shew'd*  
*A pair of Heels* for what he justly ow'd ;  
 Nor cou'd it well be said with any Face,  
 That *being on his last Legs* was his Case.  
 Sincere he was, and void of Craft and Art,  
 But never *laid his Hand upon his Heart* :  
 And was so little mov'd with Lies or Tales,  
 He never, *for Vexation, bit his Nails*.  
 Some Men, who did not love him, us'd to think,  
 That, till he cou'd not *stand on's Legs*, he'd drink :  
 But tho' he never *palm'd his Glass*, yet some  
 Can prove he ne'er *drank Supernaeculum* :  
 And tho' in Liquor he some Money spent,  
 His Legs ne'er *cut Indentures* as he went.  
 Some, that he lov'd his Gut, for reason gave,  
 He only *with his Teeth cou'd dig his Grave*.  
 In short, some little Failings well might pass,  
 Since he, *ad unguem factus homo* was.

### The EPITAPH.

HERE sleeps amongst good Christians dead,  
 One who *vi'lent Hands ne'er laid*  
*Upon himself*, nor any other ;  
 But was a peaceful, harmless Brother :  
 He neither injur'd *Life* nor *Limb*,  
*Why* then shou'd Death *lay Hands* on him ?  
 But I mistake, Death *took no Grip*  
 Of him, nor *up his Heels did trip* ;  
 But at a *Distance* shot a *Rover*,  
 And *tipp'd* him (like his *Nine-pin*) over.  
 One poor *Eseuteheon* is his Due,  
 Who, when alive, so many drew.  
 Give him but this, and then he'll have  
*Arms and Supporters* to his Grave."

Plot, in his *Oxfordshire*, 1676, refers to "one Philippa French, born at Mileomb in this county, who at six or seven and thirty years of age, and a married woman, having all her parts proportionable,



and of good symmetry, yet did want half an inch of a yard in height."

In 1677 was issued the following handbill: "At Mr. Croomes, at the signe of the Shooe and Slap, neer the Hospital gate in West Smithfield, is to be seen the Wonder of Nature, viz. a Girl above fifteen years of age, born in Cheshire, and not much above eighteen inches long, having never a perfect bone in any part of her, onely the head, yet she hath all her senses to admiration, and discourses, reads very well, sings, whistles, and all very pleasant to hear!" A similar handbill of the same prodigy, now preserved in the British Museum, contains the additional information that she had "shed the teeth seven several times," and also bears a manuscript memorandum, "I saw it Sep. 4, 1677." Probably this girl is identieal with the one mentioned by Thoresby, who says: "In June, 1683, I saw one here (Leeds) who was but about two foot high, though above twenty years of age; she was born in Bowden parish in Cheshire, but was earried in the arms as a ehild, having no use of her legs."

We possess a mezzotinto engraving by Gole, published at Amsterdam, probably about 1685, which represents a female dwarf and a male giant, standing beside each other. The former has short eurl'd hair; wears earrings, a neeklaee, and an elaborately figured gown with short sleeves, and carries a fan in her left hand. The latter has a small moustache, and long hair curling over his shoulders; and he

wears a plumed turban, a figured dressing-gown trailing on the floor, a vest of the same pattern, baggy breeches, gartered stockings, and high shoes with buckles. Underneath are Dutch verses in two compartments, which we freely translate, and which tell us that the lady is Short Jannetie of Waddigsveen, near Tergou. She was forty-six years of age, and rather more than three feet in height.

“ This is short Jannetjen, married to a tall fellow,  
A wise fellow, who remembers this golden proverb :  
A woman is an evil, a pest in the house ;  
And if you want to play the fool  
(Or rather if you must), choose the smallest of all evils.”

The giant is Tall Jacob of Sneek, in Friesland, who was forty years of age, and eight feet in height.

“ I am Jacob, extraordinarily large and strong of limb,  
Yet inside, my bowels and stomach are both large and wide ;  
Thus if my victuals and wine (together) disagree,  
I remain the conqueror, and they are killed in the strife.”

In 1685 was born at Leeds, in Yorkshire, Hannah Warton, who at twenty years of age was only two feet five inches high, and very straight and well-shaped. She could sing, dance, and play with the castanets excellently well. There is a drawing of her by James Paris among the Sloane manuscripts.

In the reign of James II., 1685-1689, appeared a handbill as follows: “ J<sup>2</sup> [royal arms] R. These are to give notice to all persons of quality, and others, that there is lately come to this famous city of London, the rarity of the world, viz. a man of the least stature that has been seen in the memory of

any, being but two foot and seven inches in height, of seven-and-thirty years of age : he has a very long beard ; he sings well. He has been seen by the King and nobility at Whitehall. He was born in Switzerland. He speaks good high Dutch. He is so very well proportion (*sic*) to his bigness, that all that sees him admires him. This person is to be seen at the Plume of Feathers, over against the King on Horsebaek, in Stock Market, every hour of the day. If any person or persons of quality have a desire to see him at their houses or lodgings, he is willing to wait upon them, having some timely notice given to him." This last paragraph displays a noteworthy phase of the history of shows, not infrequent at this period, when exhibited marvels were taken for inspection to the private residences of the wealthy, whose generosity alone was relied upon for the honorarium.

The individual last mentioned was John Wormbergh, who was born at Harlshousen, in Switzerland. In 1688 was engraved and published by Isaae Oliver, on Ludgate-hill, "The portraiture of John Wormbergh, by birth a Switzer, by religion a Protestant ; his height not exceeding two feet seven inches, aged thirty-eight years ; who had the honour to be exposed to view of most princes in Europe, and since to the King of Great Britain, and chiefest of the nobility : the like not hitherto seen, being the strangest prodigy in nature, and great astonishment of all beholders. He is at present to be seen in Fleet-street."

In the same year appeared another engraving of the same person, by J. Drapentier, with eight Dutch and four English verses. In 1689 a mezzotinto engraving of Wormbergh was executed by J. Gole; and in the same year he was represented in a plate with James Hanson, who was eight feet high. About the same period a whole-length mezzotinto portrait of Hans Wormbergh was done by P. Sehenk. James Paris, in his *Drawings of Human Prodigies*, now among the Sloane manuscripts, gives a coloured sketch of this dwarf, whom he saw in London in 1689.

At the time of Wormbergh's exhibition in that city he, although so dwarfish in stature, was as big and as strong in his legs and arms as any full-grown man. He was drowned in 1695, at Rotterdam, by accident. While being carried in his box over a plank from a quay to a ship, the plank broke, and he and the porter fell into the river. Wormbergh being enclosed as in a coffin was drowned therein. His name is sometimes given as Woremberg, Worrenburg, and Worrenberg. He probably was the same person as the one referred to by Evelyn in his *Numismata*, published in 1697, where he writes of "the little manikin lately carried about in a box." In this discourse upon coins Evelyn gravely argues that such curiosities as remarkable giants and dwarfs ought to be celebrated by having medals struck in their honour, and to perpetuate their memories.

In the reign of Mary II. and William III. (1689-

1695) the frequenters of Bartholomew Fair were offered the sight of "A Changeling Child. To be seen the next door to the Black Raven in West Smithfield, during the time of the Fair, being a living skeleton, taken by a Venetian galley from a Turkish vessel in the Archipelago. This is a fairy child, supposed to be born of Hungarian parents, but changed in the nursing, aged nine years and more; not exceeding a foot and a half high. The legs, thighs, and arms so very small, that they scarce exceed the bigness of a man's thumb, and the face no bigger than the palm of one's hand; and seems so grave and solid, as if it were three score years old. You may see the whole anatomy of its body by setting it against the sun. It never speaks. It has no teeth, but is the most voracious and hungry creature in the world, devouring more victuals than the stoutest man in England. Vivant Rex et Regina."

The same curiosity was advertised in the following handbill: "To all gentlemen and ladies. There is to be seen at Mr. Hoeknes, at the Mermaid, near the King's Bench, in Southwark, during the time of the fair, a Changeling Girl, being a living skeleton, taken by a Venetian galley, in the Turk's country, in the Archipelago. This is a Fairy Child, supposed to be born of Hungarian parents, but changed in the nursing, aged about nine years, one foot and a half high. The legs, thighs, and arms so very small, that they scarce exceed the bigness of a man's thumb, and



the face no bigger than the palm of one's hand ; and seems so grave and solid, as if it were three score years old. She is likewise a mere anatomy. Vivant Rex & Regina."

In the reign of William III. (1689-1702) appeared the following handbill: "W.R. By his majesty's permission. Next door to the King's Head, in Smithfield, during the time of Bartholomew Fair. For the satisfaction of all curious inquirers into the secrets of nature, is to be seen a woman dwarf, but three foot and one inch high, born in Somersetshire, and in the fortieth year of her age, who discourses excellently well, and gives great satisfaction to all that ever saw her. Note, there is neither loss of time, or any other inconveniency in viewing this mystery of nature. Vivat Rex."

On June 24th, 1690, was born near Norwich Anne Rouse, a dwarf, who at the age of twenty-seven years was but two feet two inches high ; very well shaped and proportioned, and very straight. James Paris drew her whole-length portrait, which is now among the Sloane manuscripts in the British Museum.

About 1698, there was newly come to the lower end of Brookfield Market, near the Market House, "a Little Scotchman, which has been admired by all that have yet seen him, he being but two foot and six inches high ; and is near upon 60 years of age. He was marry'd several years, and had issue by his wife, two sons (one of which is with him now). He

sings and dances with his son; and has had the honour to be shewn before several persons of note at their houses, as far as they have yet travelled. He formerly kept a writing school; and discourses of the scriptures, and of many eminent histories, very wisely; and gives great satisfaction to all speetators; and if need requires, there are several persons in this town that will justifie, that they were his schollars, and see him marry'd." This microseopic pedagogue also exhibited at the King's Head, in Smithfield.

Fabrieius, in the seventeenth century, speaks of a dwarf who was only forty inches high.

A little German woman, the "Dwarf of the World," in July, 1700, was "at the brandy shop, over against the Eagle and Child, in Stoeks' Market," where the Mansion House now stands. She was only two feet eight inches in height, the mother of two children, and was "earried in a little box to any gentleman's house, if desir'd." Her handbill runs as follows: "At the Brandy Shop, over against the Eagle and Child in Stoeks' Market, is to be seen any hour of the day, from eight in the morning till nine at night, a Little German Woman, the Dwarf of the World, being but 2 foot 8 inches in height, and the mother of 2 children, as straight as any woman in England, she sings and dances incomparable well, she has had the honour to be shown before kings and princes, and most of the nobility of the land, she is earried in a little box to any gentleman's house, if desir'd." Another handbill of the same

person and period, states that she was forty-nine years of age.

Ralph Thoresby, in his *Ducatus Leodiensis*, 1714, mentions a dwarf named Hannah Wood, of the Vicar-lane, in Leeds, who died in 1700, at the age of fifty-five years, and the height of one yard less an inch. He adds: "There is one —— Boothman now living in the same street, of like stature; but not so remarkable, because somewhat crooked; whereas the other was proportionable in all parts, save that her head was rather too great, as is usual in like circumstances. In September, the same year, Mrs. Mary Ann Adams was publickly shew'd in this town; she was not full three foot high, though forty-five years of age; was said to have had a child, being married."

The same age also had the opportunity of seeing in Bridges-street, Covent-garden, over against the Rose tavern, "A Living Fairy, suppos'd to be a hundred and fifty years old, his face being no bigger than a child's of a month; was found sixty years ago; look'd as old then as he does now. His head being a great piece of curiosity, having no skull, with several imperfections worthy your observation."

In Queen Anne's time (1702-1714) another fairy, but of the other sex, was announced in the following handbill: "By her Majesty's authority. At the Hart's Horn's Inn, in Pye-corner, during the time of Bartholomew Fair, will be seen these strange rarities following, viz.: A Little Farey Woman,

lately come from Italy, being but two foot two inches high, the shortest that ever was seen in England, and no ways deform'd, as the other two women are, that are earried about the streets in boxes from house to house, for some years past, this being thirteen inches shorter than either of them. If any person has a desire to see her at their own houses, we are ready to wait upon them any hour of the day."

On November 4th, 1709, was buried at Hunstanworth, Durham, Ann, the daughter of James Colling, who was at the time of her death eighteen years of age, and of a stature not above that of a child three years old; the thickest part of her arms and legs did not exceed the size of a man's thumb; and she had never chewed bread.

Bromley mentions an engraving of a dwarf who was born at Salisbury in 1709, and was two feet eight inches high. This print, which is now before us, represents a diminutive lady standing near a show, on the cloth of which she is depieted. She wears a close eap, figured gown, and large apron, and in her right hand she carries a rose. The engraving is subscribed as follows: "The wonderful and surprising English dwarf, two foot eight inches high. Born at Salisbury in 1709. Has been shewn to the Royal Family and most of the nobility and gentry of Great Britain." She was being exhibited in 1741, when she issued the following notice in the *Public Advertiser* for Jan. 7th, in that year: "To be

seen, at the White Horse Inn, in Fleet-street, the Wonderful Short Woman, born at Salisbury, no more than two feet nine inches high, straight grown, thirty-one years of age, and gives satisfaction to all that see her. To be seen any hour of the day, without loss of time. Note.—Gentlemen and ladies may see her at their own houses at any time of the day, and the price left to their own generosity.”

Another engraving, contemporary with the last-mentioned one, and apparently by the same artist, represents “The Wonderful Strong and Surprising Persian Dwarf, three foot six inches high, born in Persia, is fifty-six years old, speaks eighteen languages, sings Italian, dances to admiration, and with the ropes ty’d to his hair when put over his shoulders lifts the great stone A.” The individual is represented standing outside a show, and by his side is a large oblong stone with ropes round it; other ropes are attached to his hair, and held by him in his left hand. He wears a slouched cap, with a cord and button, knee-breeches, and a large moustache; and he is rather bandy.

He was exhibited in 1740, when he issued the following notice in the *Daily Advertiser*, for August 18th, in that year: “To be seen, at the Rummer Tavern, Charing-cross, a Persian Dwarf, just arrived, three feet eight inches high, aged 45 years, who has had the honour to divert the greatest part of the nobility, gentry, and others, in most parts of Europe, with his wonderful performances, to the



satisfaction of all. 1st. He carries upon each hand the largest men, dancing about the room. 2dly. He holds a chair on his hands with his whiskers, or moustaches, which are six inches long, and takes up from the floor a piece of money. 3dly. He takes up from the floor with his whiskers the said piece, three of his fingers being on the floor, lifting at the same time one of his legs up in the air, and with his arm thro' a chair represents a Scaramouch. 4thly. He takes up the said piece of money with his whiskers, and holds up two chairs in his arms, in the form of Scaramouch's wings. 5thly. He bears a stone of four hundred weight hanging on his hair, above six inches from the floor, dancing about the room. 6thly. He lays his head upon a chair, and his feet on another, with his body extended, and bears the said stone and two men on the top of his stomach, with ease. With many more wonderful performances, by strength and dexterity, too tedious to mention, that surpass imagination; and he is justly called the Second Sampson. He also speaks eighteen different languages. He has had the honour to be seen by the Prince and Princess of Wales, at Cliefden House, and by the Princesses at St. James's."

In Queen Anne's reign was exhibited at May Fair (which was put down in 1708), in the first booth on the left hand, over against Mr. Pinckethman's booth, during the usual time of the fair, "A Little Black Man, lately brought from the West Indies, being the wonder of this age, he being but 3 foot

high, and 25 years old." The same individual was advertised to appear also in a booth in Lincoln's Inn Fields, his handbill having the initials A. R. at the top, and "Vivat Regina" at the bottom. He no doubt is the same person as the one mentioned by Thoresby, who says: "In October, 1706, a negro twenty-six years old, and but three foot high, was in this town (Leeds) with his Turkish horse not so high." The same individual was afterwards named in the *Spectator* for January 10th, 1711-1712, which gives an amusing letter about three dwarfs who were then being exhibited in London. They were a very little man, a woman equally diminutive, and a horse proportionable in size. The letter, written by the showman to the editor, runs as follows:

"Sir, knowing that you are very inquisitive after everything that is curious in nature, I will wait on you if you please, in the dusk of the evening, with my show upon my back, which I carry about with me in a box, as only consisting of a man, a woman, and a horse. The two first are married, in which state the little cavalier has so well acquitted himself, that his lady is with child. The big-bellied woman and her husband, with their little whimsical palfrey, are so very light, that when they are put together into a scale, an ordinary man may weigh down the whole family. The little man is a bully in his nature, and when he grows choleric I confine him to his box until his wrath is over, by which means I have hitherto prevented him from doing mischief.

His horse is likewise very vieious, for which reason I am foreed to tie him elose to his manger with a paek-thread. The woman is a eoquette. She struts as mueh as it is possible for a lady of two feet high, and would ruin me in silks, were not the quantity that goes to a large pineushion suffieient to make her a gown and pettiecoat. She told me the other day, that she heard the ladies wore eoloured hoods, and ordered me to get her one of the finest blue. I am foreed to comply with her demands whilst she is in her present eondition, being very willing to have more of the same breed. I do not know what she may produce me, but provided it be a show I shall be very well satisfied. Sueh novelties should not, I think, be eoncealed from the British Speetator; for which reason I hope you will excuse this presumption in your most dutiful, most obedient, and most humble servant, S. T."

These small people were exhibited in 1712 at the Duke of Marlborough's Head, over against Salisbury-court, Fleet-street; and also in "a collection of strange and wonderful creatures from most parts of the world, all alive," over against the Mews Gate, at Charing-cross, "by her majesty's permission." Their handbill says: "The first being a little Black Man being but 3 foot high, and 32 years of age, straight and proportionable every way, who is distinguished by the name of the Black Princee, and has been shewn before most kings and princes in Christendom. The next being his wife, the Little

Woman, not 3 foot high, and 30 years of age, straight and proportionable as any woman in the land, which is commonly called the Fairy Queen, she gives a general satisfaction to all that sees her, by diverting them with dancing, being big with child. Likewise their little Turkey horse, being but 2 foot odd inches high, and above 12 years of age, that shews several diverting and surprising actions, at the word of command. The least man, woman, and horse, that ever was seen in the world alive ; the horse being kept in a box."

James Paris, in his *Drawings of Human Prodigies*, now preserved among the Sloane manuscripts, gives us a sketch of this man and his horse. They were seen by him in London, in 1712. The same writer, after mentioning these wonders, says: "I have seen also, in 1715, a little black man, brought from the West Indies, who was but 3 foot high, and but 25 years old."

In 1710 Peter the Great, the Emperor of Russia, celebrated a marriage of two dwarfs at Petersburg with great parade. For a certain day, which had been proclaimed several months before, he invited all his courtiers and the foreign ambassadors to be present at the grand marriage of this pigmy man and woman; and he ordered that all the dwarfs, both male and female, residing within two hundred miles of his capital should repair thereto, and be present at the ceremony. For their convenience he supplied vehicles which would contain a dozen dwarfs

at once. These carriages, with their odd occupants were followed into the city by a shouting and laughing mob. Some of the small people were at first unwilling to obey the order, which they knew was calculated to bring them into ridicule, and would not come. But Peter compelled them to obey, and as a punishment for their disobedience he obliged them to wait on the rest at dinner. The whole company of dwarfs numbered about seventy, besides the bride and bridegroom, who were richly adorned in the height of the fashion. For this miniature company everything provided was suitable in size. A low table held small plates, dishes, glasses, and other necessary articles, diminished to the standard of the guests. The dwarfs with much pride and gravity contended for place and superiority, which difficulty the Emperor endeavoured to surmount by ordering that the most diminutive should take the lead. But this endeavour bred disputes, as none of them would consent to be placed foremost. However, all this being at length adjusted, the banquet was consumed, and dancing followed it; the ball being opened with a minuet by the bridegroom, who was three feet two inches high. In the end the unwilling company entered into the spirit of the diversion, and themselves became much amused and entertained.

The *Guardian* for June 25th, 1713, contains a humorous notice of a fancy club of little men. The day of its institution was the 10th (?) December, being the shortest day in the year, on which the



members held their annual feast over a dish of shrimps; their place of meeting was the Little Piazza; and no man above five feet in height was allowed to become a member. The fundamental rule of the club was this: "It is the unanimous opinion of our society that since the race of mankind is granted to have decreased in stature from the beginning to this present, it is the intent of nature itself, that men should be little; and we believe that all human kind shall at last grow down to perfection—that is to say, be reduced to our own measure." In the next number of the *Guardian* some of the small members of this society are described, one being Tom Tiptoe, a dapper black fellow, the most gallant lover of the age, who was particularly nice in his habiliments. Another was Tim Tuek, who was full as large when he was fourteen years old as he was then.

The same magazine for July 15th relates the institution of the Tall Club, all the members of which were obliged to be above six feet high; thirty had already been chosen; the president was a Highlander "within an inch of a show;" and the secretary was six feet and a half in height. The device on the public seal of this institution was a crane grasping a pigmy in his right foot. The Tall Club was so much irritated by the Short Club's airs that it threatened to bring the latter's self-important members away in a pair of panniers, and imprison

them in a cupboard until they should make a public recantation for their impudence.

In the reign of George I. (1714-1727) appeared a female dwarf who alleged that she was a native of Persia.

A strong Irish dwarf, named Owen Farrel, was born in county Cavan, of humble parents. In 1716 he went to live in the capacity of footman to a colonel in Dublin. He distinguished himself on many occasions by his amazing strength—for example, by carrying four men at one time, two sitting astride on each arm. He was only three feet nine inches high, and heavily and clumsily made. By the persuasion of others he exhibited himself as a show, and was carried from place to place for that purpose; but the project not succeeding, he came to London, where, too lazy to work, he subsisted by begging about the streets. His singular appearance and uncouth manners attracted much notice. He used to carry a stout staff nearly as high as himself; his dress was ragged and dirty; he held in his hand a tattered hat; his stockings were full of holes, and his toes protruded through his worn shoes. In this miserable plight he is represented in an engraving in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, dated 1815, from a very fine original painting of him nearly the size of life, then in the possession of Kirby. He is also depicted in Caulfield's *Remarkable Persons*, 1819, and in the *Curiosities of Biography*, 1845. In 1716 was published Farrel's whole-length portrait, engraved by Burgh, after Smith. G. Smeeton, of

No. 3 Old Bailey, issued another portrait of this dwarf, the artist being J. Gleadah.

Some time before his death he sold his body, for a weekly allowance, to a Mr. Omrod, a surgeon, who, after the dwarf's decease, about 1742, made a skeleton of his bones, which was first placed in the museum of the Duke of Richmond, and when Caulfield wrote was preserved in the collection of William Hunter, at the University of Glasgow. In the same museum was a fine painting of Farrel, in a leather jerkin, from which he got his common name of "Leather-coat Jack." In 1742 his whole-length portrait, in a leather coat and hat, with a stick, and a sketch of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, in the back-ground, was published; the artist being H. Gravelot, and the engraver Hulett.

Granger says of this small Irishman: "Nature deviated widely from its usual walk in giving this dwarf little more than half the stature of a man, with the strength of two." Another writer tells us that Farrel "was so gross and massive in proportion to his height, that he presented us with a very disagreeable image." The Rev. Mark Noble says: "I have been in company with a friend's daughter, a dwarf, prodigiously large in bulk and wonderfully strong. I do not know the time of Farrel's death, but Dr. Hunter had one of his thigh-bones, which measured nine inches and a half."

The *Daily Post* for September 13th, 1726, under the heading of news from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leices-

tershire, and the date of September 5th, says: "We had a wedding last week at our elhureh, which occasioned no small diversion in these parts, viz. Little John, a pensioner of Blassardy parish, was married to Little Nan, a pensioner of Ashby parish; the former was above 90 years of age, the latter near as old, but in stature both together could measure but two yards, *i.e.* three foot apiece. The Earl of Huntingdon and several persons of distinction in company with his lordship had the curiosity to view the bridegroom and bride a few days after the nuptials, and were pleased to give them money. 'Tis reckoned a contrivance of some waggish officers of Ashby parish to get rid of their female pensioner; for Little John was ordered to carry home his wife to his own parish soon after."

In 1728 was born, at Twitshall in Norfolk, John Coan, a dwarf. When about a year old he was as large as children of that age usually are; but he grew very little and slowly afterwards. In 1744 he was thirty-six inches high, and weighed twenty-seven pounds and a half. In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1750 is a letter from William Arderon, F.R.S., dated Norwich, May 12th, in that year, which states that Coan had been shown in that city for some weeks past. Arderon weighed him on April 3d, 1750, he then being twenty-two years of age, and his weight, with all his clothes on, was no more than thirty-four pounds. He likewise carefully measured this dwarf, and found his height, with his hat, wig, and shoes on, to be thirty-eight inches. His limbs were no larger

than those of a child of three or four years old; his body was perfectly straight; the lineaments of his face accorded with his age, and his brow had some wrinkles in it when he looked attentively at anything. He had a good complexion; was of a sprightly temper; discoursed readily and pertinently, considering his education; and read and wrote English well. His voice was a little hollow, but not disagreeable; he could sing with tolerable proficiency; and he amused the company who went to see him by mimicking very exactly the crowing of a cock.

After Arderon's examination of this little man, a child (afterwards Sir William Jones) was weighed and measured against him. The child was three years and not quite nine months old. Although very lively and handsome, he was in no way remarkable for his size; and therefore his dimensions and weight, compared with the dwarf's, gave a tolerable idea of the real smallness of the latter. The weight of the dwarf, with all his clothes on, was thirty-four pounds. The child's weight, likewise with his clothes on, was thirty-six pounds. The height of the dwarf with his hat, wig, and shoes on, was thirty-eight inches and five-tenths. The height of the child, without anything on his head, was thirty-seven inches and seven-tenths; and so proportionately in all the other dimensions of the two.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1751, mentions Coan as one of several uncommon natural curiosities then being exhibited in the metropolis.



On the 5th of that month he was shown to the Royal Society, at their house in Crane-court. The *London Gazette* for January 10th, 1752, says: "On Wednesday evening, Mr. John Coan, the Norfolk dwarf, was sent for to Leieester House by her Royal Highness the Princeess Dowager of Wales, and was immediately introduced before her, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Princee Edward, Princeess Augusta, and all the other Princes and Princeesses being present, where he staid upwards of two hours; and we are assured by the pertinency of his answers, aetions, and behaviour, their Royal Highnesses were most agreeably entertained the whole time, and made him a very handsome present." The same newspaper for January 14th adds, that "on Wednesday, when Mr. John Coan, the Norfolk dwarf, who is now to be seen at the watchmaker's, facing the Cannon Tavern, Charing-cross, was at Leieester House, and had the honour of being introduced to their Royal Highnesses, he repeated the following lines:

"Behold, most gracious Princes! at your feet,  
In miniatue, a man of form complete:  
If honour'd thus, too blithly I behave,  
O pardon at this time your little slave,  
Who inward blesses his peeculiar fate  
That made him small, to pleasure you so great.  
Let others boast their stature, or their birth,  
This glorious truth shall fill my soul with mirth,  
That I now am, and hope for years shall sing,  
The smallest subject of the greatest king."

In 1752 he was also presented to George II., at St. James's Palace, to the Royal Society, and to most of

the nobility in London. The *Daily Advertiser* of the same year tells us, that he “had the favour of being sent for to the Guildhall, Bristol, when at St. James’s Fair, with the dog that reads, writes, and casts accounts, and the Afrieian Princee. The mayor and aldermen ingeniously deelarred there was not a subjeet besides him, publiely exhibited at the fair, worth seeing, and, peculiarly to express their satisfaction, made Mr. Coan a very handsome present, and gave peremptory orders that none but these should have liberty of exhibition after the fair.” Coan exhibited at Bartholomew Fair and many other plaees with Edward Bamford, the giant of Shire-lane,\* with whom he is represented in an engraving by Roberts, in 1771. This dwarf also played to the company at Tunbridge Wells the *Fine Gentleman in Lethe*; and, having theatrieal tastes, he frequently used to rehearse prologues and speeches from plays, for the amusement of his numerous visitors. About 1762, although he was then under thirty-five years of age, he displayed many of the infirmities of a much more advanced period of life. His health was failing, his complexion sallow, and his skin wrinkled. Upon being asked by a lady respecting his health, he replied, “Ah, madam, I have already fallen into the sear and yellow leaf,” which was literally true. In 1762 he was engaged by Pinelbeek at the Dwarf Tavern, in the Five Fields, Chelsea, to which were attached tea-gardens, and which seems to have been

\* Vide page 189.

a place of some attraction, inasmuch as it was repeatedly visited by an Indian king in that year. Here Coan, being the principal object of public notice, was worked very hard. Numerous companies of visitors kept him continually employed in an endeavour to keep them amused. He was in general an agreeable companion, having an intelligent mind, and being well-read, particularly in dramatic literature. He had a good voice, and when he was in spirits he would keep an audience in a roar of laughter by getting on a table and singing the song of *The Cock*, which he did with much humour and quaint action.

He was very fond of gay dress, like the small lady who was carried about in a box;\* but then this was a weakness which he could readily indulge, because so small a quantity of stuff made him a suit. He sometimes wore blue and gold, at others purple and silver, and at others light blue and silver, with a bag-wig.

The *Daily Advertiser* for March, 1764, records his death as follows: "Yesterday (28th) died at the Dwarf Tavern, in Chelsea Fields, Mr. John Coan, the unparalleled Norfolk Dwarf." His owner, determined to make as much out of him as possible, exhibited his corpse to the public as long as he could; and when that was buried, he endeavoured to attract visitors by showing the dwarf's effigy for a considerable time afterwards. G. P. Harding drew Coan's portrait.

\* Vide page 313.

The ehronicle of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, under date May 2d, 1732, says, that "a man dwarf, brought from Denmark, not quite three feet high, was presented to their majesties. He stood under the D. Cumberland's arm, which mightily pleased his highness." In July he was taken into the service of the Prince of Wales, who put him into the dress of a Polander. Gaspard Boutin speaks of a dwarf who was of the same height as this Dane, namely, thirty-six inches.

James Paris, in his manuscript book, dated 1733, writes of John Skinner, who was born in Plymouth, and at thirty-five years of age was only two feet six inches high.

The following prize epigram on a dwarf is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for February, 1735 :

"Saunt'ring with merry Jack of late,  
We spy'd an odd triumvirate ;  
Two, almost as the Saxon tall,\*  
The third, like Æsop, crook'd and small ;  
The tall their parting congees made,  
The Pigmy ne'er deelin'd his head.  
Says I, that dwarf no manners shows ;  
You err, crys Jack, he always bows."

A newspaper of December 16th, 1735, announced as follows : " This is to give notice, to all gentlemen, ladies, and others. That there is arrived at this place, a little wild man, born in St. David's Streight's, aged 27 years ; he is 34 inches high, strait, very well proportioned, and eloathed in the proper dress

\* Vide page 114.



of his country. He had the honour to be shew'd to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princeess of Orange, and their court, at the Hague, to their great admiration. The like of this wild man having never been seen in Europe, is now to be seen at the Mitre and Rummer, at Charing-cross, from 10 o'clock in the morning to one in the afternoon; and from two in the afternoon to eight at night."

At the top of this advertisement is a rude wood-cut representing a seashore, on which stands a Greenlander, or some such native, in a fur dress, with a bow and arrow. Beyond are a ship, a spouting whale, and a man in a canoe with a paddle. Another newspaper of December, 1735, says, that on the 4th of that month, "the little wild man, 34 inches high, and 27 years old, lately brought from Davis's Straites, was sent for to St. James's, to be seen, by order of the Duke, and the Princesses Amelia and Carolina." A handbill of this dwarf states that "he has been shewn twice before the Royal Family and Sir Hans Sloane."

Mr. Fillinham had in his collection a very curious and rare print, in small folio, without date, engraved by J. O. Bernot, of Minor Nürnberg, representing two dwarfs, seated near the entrance of some caves on the Greenland coast. The print had an inscription in German, of which the following is a translation as far as the same related to the above-named remarkable characters; the remainder being merely observations on Greenland. "There have lately



arrived in Nuremberg, and are drawn from nature in this picture, from Davis's Straits, in Greenland, a family which has been accustomed to live in the large caverns of rocks; of whom the man is twenty inches high, and a hundred and forty years old, and the woman seventy years old, and eighteen inches high; with a male child, their offspring, who lived to seventeen years, and was not more than six inches high, who died lately at Rastadt, and is embalmed in the Chemical Laboratory there, where he is yet to be seen."

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1735, under date December 20th, relates in rhyme, that

"A dwarf from France arriv'd in Town,  
Measuring but Inches twenty-one,  
At Court a wonder, great was shown,  
Where He, tho' aged 46,  
Performed 20 childish tricks."

This dwarf issued the following handbill: "This is to give notice, to all gentlemen, ladies, and others, admirers of curiosities, that there is lately arrived from France, a man, six and forty years old, one foot nine inches high, yet fathoms six foot five inches with his arms. He walks naturally upon his hands, raising his body one foot four inches off the ground: jumps upon a table near three foot high with one hand, and leaps off without making use of anything but his hands, or letting his body touch the ground. He shews some part of military exercise on his hands, as well as if he stood upon his legs. He will go to

any gentleman's house if requir'd. He has had the honour to be shewn before the court of France; his royal highness the Prince of Wales, the Princesses, and most of the nobility and gentry, and is now to be seen at the Charing-cross Coffee-house, the corner of Spring-gardens. Vivant Rex & Regina."

Twenty-one inches is a suspiciously low stature; but even that height exceeds the proportions of some dwarfs, of whom we have reliable information. Demaillet, a French consul at Cairo, says he saw a dwarf only eighteen inches high. Birch, in his collections, speaks of one only sixteen inches high and thirty-seven years old. Virey, in the *Dictionnaire des Sciences*, notices a German dwarf girl eighteen inches high, but she was only nine years old.

Somewhere about this time was published the quarto portrait of a female Dutch dwarf, who was three feet two inches high. This also was the height of Edward Seofield, the deputy clerk of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, whose portrait when he was seventy-one years old was drawn by J. Wright, and engraved by R. Hancock.

In 1736 died, at the age of fifty-seven years, John Grimes, a dwarf, only three feet eight inches high. He was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He married, and had four children. When he was between thirty and forty years old, he could lift up from the ground upon his hands two full-grown men at once; but his drunkenness disabled him and weakened him at or about the age of forty years. He was as broad as

he was long, from hand to hand stretched. He sold himself for dissection after death to a surgeon several years before that event happened for sixpence per week. Pursuant to this contract he was dissected, and his skeleton was made by a surgeon over against the Fountain Tavern, in the Strand.

The last court dwarf in England was a German named Coppernin, who was retained as an adjunct to imperial state by Wilhelmina Carolina of Brandenburg, the wife of George II., who married that sovereign in 1705, when he was Prince of Wales, and died in 1737.

William Butler, an English dwarf, two feet and a half in height, died at the age of forty years, and was buried on July 25th, 1737, in Plumstead churchyard.

The *Daily Advertiser* for March, 1738, contains the following advertisement of a dwarf whose posture when asleep was certainly novel: "Arrived on Monday the 18th inst., And to be seen at the Young Man's Coffee-house, Charing-cross, having never been seen in London before, a Little Man, fifty years of age, two feet nine inches high, and the father of eight children; born without any joints in his wrists, and notwithstanding has the use of both hands to great perfection; his feet are double-jointed, and he has two pan bones to each knee. He performs the beat of a drum to a very surprising degree, and sings with a loud voice at the same time. When he sleeps he puts his head between his two feet to rest

on them by way of a pillow, and his great toes one in each ear, which posture he shews ; and performs several other things, to the great satisfaction of all speetators. If any gentlemen or ladies are desirous to see the above surprising Little Man, at their houses, he will wait on them at any hour, between nine in the morning and three in the afternoon, on notice given him at his lodging, and the price left to their own generosity. The said Little Man may be seen from nine in the morning till nine at night. Note. He is straight, well proportion'd, and well made every way, which a man of his size and performanees was never seen in this kingdom before."

## CHAPTER XIII.

Joseph Boruwlaski—his life—Kemble and Dwarf—Bébé, King of Poland's Dwarf—his life—Mdlle. Souvray—Kitip—Marc Catozze—the Corsican Fairy—Robert and Judith Skinner—Little Polander—Man in a Bottle—Signor Jumpedo—Geneva Dwarf—her feats—Welsh Dwarf—Hopkins Hopkins—Friesland Dwarf—Little Will—Bertholde—Dwarf Prime Minister—Cornelius Caton—George Romondo—Liège Dwarf—Dwarf at Russian Embassy—Dwarf Marriage—Dwarf Priest—Dwarf Marriage—Andrew Whiston, King of the Beggars.

JOSEPH BORUWLASKI, commonly called Count Boruwlaski, was born near Chaliez, in Polish Russia, in November, 1739. His parents were of the medium size, and had a family of six children, five sons and one daughter. Three of the former, when full grown, exceeded the middle stature; but the other two and the daughter attained only that of children of about the age of four years. At the time of Joseph's birth he measured only eight inches in length; but he was neither weak nor defective, and his mother, who suckled him herself, frequently stated that none of her children gave her less trouble than he. At the age of one year he was fourteen inches, and at six years seventeen inches high. His eldest brother, born eleven years before him, was a strong and vigorous little fellow, only forty-two



inches in height. He became page, and then confidential steward, to the Countess Inalawski. The sister, named Anastasia, who was seven years younger than Joseph, was so short that she could stand under his arm. She is represented by him, in his memoirs, to have been a perfect model of symmetry and beauty, having a lively and cheerful temper, and a feeling and beneficent heart. Before she was twenty years of age, she became enamoured of a young officer, to whom, however, she never told her affection, for fear of ridicule. But she could not conceal from her friend and benefactress, the Castelane Kaminska, her regard for this gentleman, who was noble but poor. Anastasia knew this, and, endeavouring to find the means of serving him without hurting his delicacy, she contrived to engage him to play at *piequet* with her, and, usually obliging him to play deeply, she managed always to lose. At the age of twenty years she was seized with small-pox, and within two days she died, her height then being twenty-eight inches.

Joseph was still an infant when his father died, leaving his widow in poverty with six children. Before this event, the *Starostin de Caorlix*, afterwards the Countess de Tarnow, had manifested great affection for Joseph, and solicited his parents to commit him to her care. She now repeated her offers to his mother, who consented to the separation. This lady, accordingly, took him to her residence, and during four years she faithfully performed the charge which she had undertaken. Upon her marriage, he

was transferred to her friend, the Countess Humieeka, who took him to her estate at Ryehty, in Podolia, where he stayed for a long time. At the age of ten years he had attained a stature of twenty-one inches, and at the age of fifteen years he was twenty-five inches high.

At this time he was taken by the countess to Vienna, where he was presented to the Empress Maria Theresa, who on one occasion took him on her lap, caressed him, and asked him what he thought was most curious and interesting at Vienna. He answered, that he had seen in that city many things worthy of admiration, but nothing seemed so extraordinary as that which he then beheld. "And what is that?" inquired her majesty. "To see so little a man on the lap of so great a woman," replied Boruwlaski. The empress then wore a ring, on which was her eipher in brilliants. His hand being in hers, and he looking attentively at this jewel, she asked him whether the eipher was pretty. "I beg your majesty's pardon," replied Boruwlaski; "it is not the ring that I am looking at, but the hand, which I beseech your permission to kiss," at the same time raising it to his lips. The flattered empress thereupon took a very fine diamond ring from the finger of Maria Antoinette, then a child, and put it on Boruwlaski's. The notice of the empress procured him the attention of the whole court, and the marked kindness of Count Kaunitz. By this time the little man was about twenty-eight inches high.

From Vienna the countess and her dwarf proceeded to Munich, and thence to Luneville, the residence of Stanislaus Lesezinski, the aged dethroned King of Poland, by whom the travellers were received in his palace. With this prince lived the famous Bébé, a native of France, who was a few inches taller than Boruwlaski. He at first showed much friendship for the latter; but when he saw that the little stranger more preferred the conversation of sensible people than his, and, above all, that the king took pleasure in his company, he conceived the most violent jealousy and hatred against him. One day, they both being in the royal apartment, the king asked several questions of Boruwlaski, with whose replies he was much pleased. "You see, Bébé," said he, "what a difference there is between Joujou [the familiar name by which Boruwlaski was known] and you. He is amiable, cheerful, entertaining, and well-informed; whereas you are but a little machine." To these words Bébé made no reply, but his countenance indicated his passionate resentment. Shortly afterwards, the king having left the room, Bébé seized the opportunity to take revenge. Silly approaching his rival, he caught him by the waist, and endeavoured to push him into the fire. The noise occasioned by this scuffle brought back the king, who, after he had extricated his small countryman from his assailant, called for his servants, directed them to inflict on Bébé corporal punishment, and ordered him never to appear again in his presence.

Boruwlaski interceded for the culprit; but the first part of the sentence was executed, and his majesty would not revoke the other except upon the condition that Bébé should beg pardon of his injured rival. He reluctantly submitted to this humiliation; but his death, which took place not long afterwards, was partly attributed to the mortification that he experienced on this occasion.

Bébé is said by Boruwlaski to have had a figure perfectly well-proportioned, and very pleasing features. Count Tressan, who had many opportunities of comparing these two dwarfs at Luneville, says, "The resemblance between Bébé and Boruwlaski consists only in their stature. The latter has been treated most favourably by nature. He enjoys good health, is clever and nimble; he can bear fatigue, and lift great weights in proportion to his size. What distinguishes him still more from Bébé is that he possesses great mental energy and accomplishments, that his memory is excellent, and his judgment very sound. He understands arithmetic, reads and writes well, and speaks German and French with great fluency. He is ingenious in everything he undertakes, lively in his repartees, just in his reasonings. In a word, Boruwlaski may be considered as a complete though very diminutive man, and Bébé as an imperfect one."

From Luneville Boruwlaski proceeded with his benefactress to Paris, where they passed more than a year, and were patronised by the royal family and

the nobility. Bouret, the farmer-general, gave an entertainment in honour of Boruwlaski, at which the plates, dishes, knives, forks, and spoons were proportioned to his size, and even the food consisted of small things, such as ortolans and beafieos. One evening Count Oginski served up Boruwlaski in a tureen at a banquet.

In 1760, while Boruwlaski was at Paris, Count Tressan sent to the Royal Aeademy of Sciences in that eity the following aecount of him: "M. Boruwlasky, who came over with the Countess of Humieeska, is twenty-two years of age, and about twenty-eight inches high; he is well-proportioned, and has nothing shoeking about him; his eyes are fine and full of fire; his features agreeable, and his physiognomy spirited, which indicates the gaiety and sprightliness of his mind. He enjoys a perfect state of health, drinks nothing but water, eats little, sleeps well, and can bear a great deal of fatigue. He danees well, and is very nimble. Nature has refused nothing but size to this amiable ereature, for which she has made him ample amends by the beauties of his body and mind. His manner is extremely graee-ful, and his repartees smart and spirited. He speaks sensibly of what he has seen, and has a very good memory; his judgment is sound, and his heart susceptible of the most tender impressions; he has never shown any passion or ill-nature, is extremely complacent, loves to be treated with the decorum due to his rank, yet is not offended with those who make



free with him on account of his stature. His father and mother are above the middling size, have six children, the eldest of whom is but thirty-four inches high. His three other brothers, who were born within a year of each other, are above five feet six inches high, strong and well-made; the sixth is a girl, but six years old, handsome and well-made, but not above twenty or twenty-one inches high at most, but forward in every other respect as any child of that age. The father and mother of these little creatures did not think them worth bestowing education on, and they probably had remained ignorant and illiterate if the Countess of Humiecska and a near relation of hers had not about two years ago taken them under their protection. One little gentleman has so well improved in that short time, that he writes and reads very well, and understands arithmetic. In four months he learned the German tolerably well, and French sufficiently to express himself with ease and in chosen terms." The count may be correct in his description of Boruwlaski's person, but he is wrong in some of his other statements.

The *Annual Register* for 1761, under date May 13th, says: "Some letters from the Hague mention that the famous Polish countess and her dwarfs are now the only subjects of the conversation and diversion of the nobility and gentry in Holland, for their witty expressions. The Princess Nassau-Weilbourg, having one of those dwarfs upon her lap, said, 'Are not you very sorry you are not taller?' 'No,' re-

plied he; 'if I was, I should not have the honour to sit upon your ladyship's knee.'"

Having visited Holland, the Countess Humiecka returned with her little companion through Germany to Warsaw, where they settled, and where his company was much courted. Boruwlaski, who had now attained the age of twenty-five years, and was thirty-five inches high, became enamoured of an actress belonging to a company of French comedians at Warsaw. Having procured an introduction to the lady, he declared his passion for her; and for some time he believed that she cherished similar sentiments towards him. This courtship, however, was short, inasmuch as it became a subject of public notoriety, and his charmer openly laughed at his passion. The discovery of this much distressed Boruwlaski; and his patroness, becoming informed of his intrigue, discharged from her service the servants through whose means he had been enabled to carry it on, and she even withdrew her favours from him for a short time.

Soon after the accession of Stanislaus II. to the throne of Poland, Boruwlaski was presented to him, who took him under his protection, the dwarf still continuing in the Countess Humiecka's good graces. At the age of thirty years he was thirty-nine inches high, and then he stopped growing. At the age of forty years love again disturbed his happiness. His patroness had taken into her house as a companion a young lady named Isalina Barbutan, born of French

parents settled at Warsaw. Her beauty made at first sight a strong impression on his heart; but she for a long time ridiculed his passion, which he still pressed upon her with much ardour. When the Countess Humieeka was informed of his sentiments she remonstrated with him thereon; but as he paid no attention to her arguments, she directed him to be confined in his own apartment. Finding that he continued obstinate, she ordered him to leave her house finally; and she sent Isalina away also.

Turned adrift in the world, without money or resources, Boruwlaski was at first much embarrassed; but he applied for help to the king's brother, Prince Casimir, who had always taken particular interest in him, and who induced the king to promise to provide for him. Boruwlaski still continued his unremitting addresses to the object of his passion, who at length married him, the king having first approved of the match, and settled an annuity of one hundred dueats on him. However, Boruwlaski soon found that the royal favours would scarcely be sufficient for the support of himself and his wife, who within a few weeks after her marriage informed him that he was likely soon to be a father. His patrons suggested that a second visit to the courts of Europe would procure him the means of leading, on his return, a life of comfort.

He adopted the idea; the king supplied him with a convenient carriage; and being provided with letters of recommendation, he left Warsaw in No-

vember, 1780. His wife being taken ill at Cracow, they were obliged to continue for some time in that city; where, after a long indisposition, she gave birth to a daughter. On her recovery they set out for Vienna, where they arrived in February, 1781. Unfortunately for Boruwlaski, his patroness, Maria Theresa, had then just died. He, however, again received the benevolence of Count Kaunitz; and he became acquainted with the British ambassador, Sir R. M. Keith, who induced him to make his subsequent voyage to England. After giving a concert, which was attended by almost all the nobility of Vienna, he left that city provided with letters of recommendation to many princes of Germany, at whose courts, in the course of an interesting tour, he was well received. He then travelled into Hungary, Turkey, Lapland, Finland, Siberia, and other countries.

He now resolved to visit England, and having embarked at Ostend, he arrived at Margate, after a tempestuous passage of six days, during which the vessel lost her masts and sails. In London his earliest patrons were the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. A short time after his arrival a giant over eight feet high likewise visited the metropolis. Being desirous of seeing them together, the duke and duchess, accompanied by Lady Spencer, one day took Boruwlaski to see this giant, with whose knee the dwarf's head was about on a level. Before long Boruwlaski was introduced to the Prince of

Wales, afterwards George IV.; and on May 23d, 1782, he was presented by the Countess of Egremont to the king and queen, and the junior members of the royal family.

All the favours of his patrons were not, however, sufficient to support himself and his wife decently; so that he was obliged to have recourse to the expedient of giving subscription concerts, and of an exhibition of himself, first at a guinea, then at five shillings, and afterwards at half-a-crown each person. A newspaper of June 17th, 1782, contains the following advertisement of one of his concerts: "Carlisle House. (By very particular desire.) Comte Boruwlaski, the most celebrated dwarf now in Europe, is compelled to put off his concert, from Monday the 17th to Wednesday the 19th instant, when it will be performed at this place, under the direction of Mr. Cramer, who was unavoidably prevented from attending on the first night. Tickets for the 17th inst. will be admitted, and may be had of Comte Boruwlaski, No. 55 Jermyn-street, near St. James's Church."

In 1783 Boruwlaski visited the principal towns of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and was very successful. In Ireland he was detained by the illness of his wife, who there gave birth to her second child. At length, after an absence of two or three years, he returned to London in March, 1786. On his way he stopped at several provincial cities, among which was Leeds, where a vulgar and very stont



lady asked him what religion he professed. He replied that he was a Roman Catholic. Upon which she told him that there was no hope of his going to heaven. He reminded her that the Scriptures said that the gate to heaven was narrow, and therefore he hoped that he had more chance than she had, looking at the same time at her broad and bulky figure.

In London he resumed his former system of concert-giving and exhibitions; which he continued in various towns in England, Scotland, France, and Ireland. Having saved a little money, and his mind being relieved from anxiety, he began to write the history of his life, which undertaking was patronised by the Prince of Wales, and many of the nobility. It was published in 1788, and is entitled "The Memoirs of Joseph Boruwlaski, the celebrated Polish Dwarf; containing a curious account of his birth, marriage, travels, and voyages, in French and English." Prefixed is an engraved portrait of him, with his wife and child, by W. Hincks. This work was republished in 1792, and again in 1820, at Durham. In 1788 Boruwlaski's portrait was engraved by Av. Assen. Another portrait of him appears in the *Biographia Curiosa*; and another in Wilson's *Wonderful Characters*.

In July, 1791, Boruwlaski was at Southampton, where he held a ball in the Long Rooms, and performed music of his own composition on the guitar. An erroneous report having reached Boruwlaski's

native country that he had laid out several thousand pounds in the Funds, he was thought no longer to require the king's favours, and his annuity of one hundred ducats was accordingly discontinued. This circumstance compelled him to revisit Poland in the year 1792; but he soon afterwards returned to this country, where his exhibitions were so successful that in a few years he retired, and spent the remainder of his life in ease and comfort. At the end of the last century, having been seen by some of the prebendaries of Durham, he was prevailed upon by that body to take up his abode for life in Bank's Cottage, near their city, they engaging to allow him a handsome income. He accepted this offer, and enjoyed the clerical bounty up to the time of his death, which happened at the same cottage on September 5th, 1837, when he was ninety-eight years of age. His remains were placed near those of Stephen Kemble, in the nine altars in Durham Cathedral. In Kay's *Edinburgh Portraits* there is one of Boruwlaski, taken from life. For the sake of contrast, he is represented in company with Neil Ferguson, an advocate, then one of the tallest men in Edinburgh. Bonomi, the architect, took a full cast of Boruwlaski. At the sale of Fillinham's collection in 1862 were sold some scarce portraits of Boruwlaski, an original drawing of him by De Wilde, autograph letters, the handbill for his public breakfast, and the sale catalogue of his effects. One of his shoes and a glove are now in the Bristol

Philosophical Institution. The length of the sole of the former outside is five inches and seven-eighths.

Apropos of our reference above to Kemble, we may add that he was once sleeping at an inn in a country town, and was awakened about daybreak by a strange figure, a dwarf, standing by his bed in extraordinary attire. Kemble, who was a fat man, raised himself up in the bed, and questioned the intruder; who said, "I am a dwarf, as you perceive; I am come to exhibit at the fair to-morrow, and I have mistaken the bedchamber. I suppose you are a giant come for the same purpose."

Buffon, in his *Natural History*, published about 1767, gives an account of Bébé, the King of Poland's famous dwarf, to whom we have before referred. His real name was Nieholas Feny, or Ferry, and he was born at Plaisnes, in the Vosges. His parents were strong, healthy; well-made peasants. At the time of his birth he was only eight inches long, and weighed twelve ounces. He was so very small that he was presented upon a plate to be baptised, and for a long time he had his father's wooden shoe for his bed. His mother reared him with great difficulty, as his mouth, although well proportioned to the rest of his body, was not large enough to receive her nipple. He was therefore suckled by a goat, who performed the part of a nurse remarkably well. When six months old he had the small-pox; but he recovered without any other assistance than the care of his mother, and the milk of the

goat. At the age of eighteen months he could articulate some words. At two years he could support himself upon his legs, and walk almost without assistance. A pair of shoes were then made for him, which were no more than an inch and a half in length. He was attacked by several diseases, but the only evidences left of his disorders were the marks of the small-pox on his skin.

From his infancy up to the age of six years his food consisted of vegetables and bacon. At this time his height was about fifteen inches, and his weight thirteen pounds; his person was agreeable and well proportioned; he was in perfect health; but he had little appearance of intellect. At this age Stanislaus ordered him to Luneville, gave him the name of Bébé, and kept him in his palace. Bébé, thus removed from the condition of a peasant to the luxuries of a court, experienced no change either in his body or his mind. He had no sense of religion, the immortality of the soul, or the Supreme Being. He was incapable of reasoning, and could only imperfectly learn music and dancing; but he afterwards seemed to be fond of the former, and beat time with tolerable accuracy. He was susceptible of passions, particularly of anger, jealousy, and the *désir ardent*. The Princess of Talmond was appointed to teach him; but she had a very profitless task. He, however, conceived such a strong attachment to her, that seeing her one day caress a dog, he snatched the animal from her arms, and threw it out of window,

crying, "Why do you love him more than me?" We have before related the story of his passionate endeavour to push Boruwlaski into the fire when he was on a visit to the king. .

When sixteen years old Bébé was only twenty-one inches in height; but still healthy and well proportioned. At this time puberty produced upon him a great change; his strength began to decrease; his spine became crooked; his head fell forwards; his legs were enfeebled; one shoulder-blade projected; his nose was greatly enlarged; he lost his gaiety, and became a valetudinarian. His stature increased four inches in the four succeeding years. Count Tressan, whose comparison between Bébé and Boruwlaski we have before given, foretold that the former would die of old age before he was thirty; and in effect he did so; for at twenty-one he was shrunk and decrepit, and at twenty-two he could with difficulty make a hundred steps successively. In his twenty-third year he was attacked with a slight fever, and fell into a kind of lethargy, in the intervals of which he spoke with great difficulty. These diseases soon proved fatal, and he died on June 9th, 1764. For the last five days of his life his ideas seemed to be more clear than when he was in health. At the time of his death he measured thirty-three inches in height. Upon dissecting him the anatomists discovered many obstructions sufficient to account for the stoppage of his growth.

It is said that the king, about the year 1761,



planned a marriage between Bébé and Anne Therese Souvray, a native of the Vosges; but Bébé died before the union was effected; nevertheless the lady assumed and retained the name of her intended. She was exhibited in 1819 in Paris, at the theatre of M. Comte, when she was seventy-three years of age, and only thirty-three inches high. Notwithstanding her advanced age, she was full of gaiety and vivacity; and danced and sung national songs in public with her sister, Barbe Souvray, the elder by two years, and the taller by eight inches. The parents of these two little musical marvels were of the ordinary stature.

In 1740 was born at Squoati, in the island of Bali, of well-proportioned parents, a dwarf named Kitip, who attained the height of only two feet eleven inches, English measure. When he was forty years of age he was exhibited at Batavia, at which time his head was far too large for his body; his hair was long and black, with a little gray in it; he had no beard; his skin was of a brownish colour; his shoulders were broad; and his chest was strong. His abdomen was contracted towards the lower part; his arms were too long in proportion to his body, and slightly twisted outwards; the lower part of them being only half as long as the part above the elbow. His hands were short, broad, and rounded. The fingers were like stumps, very loosely connected with the bones of the hand, and having no joints in them. Each hand had six of these shapeless fingers upon it,

and the back of it was somewhat concave, so that he could use it instead of a spoon to convey food to his mouth. His legs, in which the knees were entirely wanting, were very short, and his feet grew out of them solidly. The latter were short and broad, and each one had six toes, similar in form to his fingers.

The *Wonderful Museum* by Kirby, and the *Curiosities of Biography*, tell us, that Marc Catozze, called the Little Dwarf, was born at Venice in 1741, of tall and robust parents. He had several brothers, all of whom were tall and well made. His body was not deformed, and it appeared to belong to a man of five feet and a half high. He had neither arms nor legs, but very prominent shoulders and perfect hands. The lower part of his body was very flat, terminating in misshapen feet. He spent the greater part of his life in travelling over Europe, and exhibiting himself as a curiosity. He appeared at Bow Fair in the year 1766, when he issued the following exhibition bill :

“This is to acquaint the nobility, gentry, and the curious in general. To be seen from nine o’clock in the morning till nine at night, during the time of the fair, the surprising Italian Dwarf, two feet six inches high, twenty-five years of age, born without arms, legs, or thighs. Yet has feet and hands. He walks, beats the drum, handles the broad sword, can read and write, like any other person, and speaks different languages as well as any man ; sings several songs in various languages, and has had the honour to be presented before several princes, princesses, and others

of the nobility in Europe. We fix no price to gentlemen and ladies. Tradesmen, 6*d*. Working people, 3*d*."

He attracted much public notice, not only by the singularity of his form, but also by the astonishing strength of his jaws, and the dexterity with which he threw up into the air sticks and other things with one of his hands, and caught them with the other. As he could scarcely reach his mouth with the ends of his fingers, nature had furnished him with the extraordinary power of protruding, and at the same time lowering his under jaw, by means of which he could feed himself without assistance.

Although he could walk and stand upright on his feet, he experienced great difficulty in reaching objects situated at a certain distance from his hands. He therefore contrived an instrument to supply his wants in this respect. It was composed of a hollow piece of elder, about three feet in length, through which passed an iron rod, fixed so as to slide up and down, and terminating in a very sharp hook. If he wished to lay hold of an object at some distance from him, he took his tube in one hand, and then seizing the object with the hook, he drew it towards him, turning it any way he pleased without letting go the stick, but drawing back the hooked piece of iron into its sheath. The habit of using this instrument had rendered him so dextrous, that by means of it he could take up a piece of money from a table.

In his youth he travelled upon horseback; for this purpose he used a particular kind of saddle, and he

usually appeared in public holding the reins, beating a drum, exercising with a musket, writing, winding up his watch, and performing other manœuvres. He possessed a very robust constitution, was gay and merry, took pleasure in relating his travels and adventures, and spoke and wrote English, German, French, and Italian very well. The vivacity of his disposition rendered his conversation very interesting. He frequently boasted that he had gained the affections of several women. He was addicted to wine and spirituous liquors, and was fond of good living. He was very obstinate, had much self-love, and ridiculous haughtiness. When he went abroad he was sometimes drawn in a small vehicle by a man, whom he called his horse, and to whom he gave a few half-pence; but he never suffered this servant to eat with him. Notwithstanding that his lower extremities consisted only of his feet, he could walk so far as three-quarters of a mile at one time, and in order to rest himself he used to turn out his toes as far as he could, support himself before on his stick, and behind against any place that he happened to be near. During the last years of his life he resided at the hospital at Paris. He died at the age of sixty-two years, of inflammation of the bowels, having for two years previously had violent colic pains.

The *Daily Advertiser* for November 2d, 1742, tells us that there was to be seen at the Golden Cross, near Charing-cross, a wonderful young man, twenty-two years of age, who never had the use of hands, arms,

legs, or feet, weighed but four stone and two pounds, was two feet long, and had as comely a face as most men. He was seen by Sir Hans Sloane and some members of the Royal Society. He wrote well with his mouth several sorts of hands, and drew pictures or coats of arms to the greatest perfection. He also played a game of cards, and cut and dealt them with his mouth.

In 1742 Robert and Judith Skinner, husband and wife, were exhibited in Westminster. The former was forty-four years old, and two feet one inch high; and the latter was only one inch taller. They were very good-looking, perfectly straight and well made, witty, intelligent, and jocular. The man was born at Rippon, in Yorkshire, and the woman was a native of Wales. They were married at St. Martin's Church, London, twenty-three years before, during which time they had a family of fourteen children, all of whom were well-grown and healthy.

These dwarfs were exhibited only two years, and in that period they were so extensively and profitably patronised, that they were enabled to save a fortune, upon which they retired. They had made for them a small carriage, no larger than a child's chaise, which was drawn by two dogs, and driven by a lad twelve years old, attired in a purple and yellow livery. In this equipage they used frequently to drive in St. James's Park, where they had many curious followers.

In 1763 Mrs. Skinner died, and her husband was



so much affected at her loss, that he secluded himself from all society for twelve months, shutting himself up in an apartment in his house, and refusing admittance even to his own family. He would not suffer any one to approach him except an old woman-servant, whom he had known from childhood. At length, when he had recovered from his sharpest grief, he left London, to which he had taken a great distaste; and, still afflicted by his bereavement, he returned to Rippon, his native place, where he died two years afterwards. He bequeathed his property, which is said to have amounted to twenty-two thousand pounds, equally among his children.

A rude woodcut in an old magazine represents Mr. Skinner and his wife in a furnished room, one standing on either side of a tall man. The male dwarf wears knee-breeches, buckled shoes, and frilled cuffs; and the lady wears a hooped skirt and apron, and carries an open fan.

In 1743 was born in Corsica, on the mountain of Stata Ota, a dwarf, afterwards called Madame Tere-sia, the Corsican Fairy, who was exhibited at the Arts Museum, in Cockspur-street, London, in 1769, when she was thirty-four inches high, and weighed twenty-six pounds. She was an elegant little creature, pretty, exceedingly well proportioned in her limbs, of admirable symmetry, vivacious, spirited, womanly, and yet fairy-like. She spoke French and Italian, was a great favourite with her visitors, and created much public interest. In October, 1773, she

was again exhibited in London, when her whole-length portrait was engraved by Worlidge. It was reproduced in Wilson's *Wonderful Characters* and in Smeeton's *Biographia Curiosa*, 1822.

An advertisement of the year 1746, announcing the amusements at the New Wells in Clerkenwell, says: "For an interlude is to be introduced the wonderful little Polander, who is allowed to be the greatest curiosity in the memory of man, being only two feet ten inches high, and sixty years of age, and in every way proportionable, and wears his beard after his own country's fashion. Also the tall Saxon woman, seven feet high, between whom and the Lilliputian Polander there is to be a country dance." A folio engraving represents the little Polander, in his surprising performances in balaneing and otherwise, at Sadler's Wells, in twenty-four compartments.

In 1749 the public were imposed on by a person who advertised that he would appear at the Haymarket Theatre, and get into a common wine-bottle. An audience assembled to witness the feat, but the conjuror did not attend. This dupe caused much excitement at the time, and many letters, advertisements, and pamphlets appeared, ridiculing the credulity of the public. Among the advertisements was the following one: "Lately arrived from Italy, Sig. Capitello Jumpedo, a surprising dwarf, no taller than a common tavern tobacco-pipe, who can perform many wonderful equilibres on the slack or tight rope; likewise he will transform his body in above

ten thousand different shapes and postures ; and after he has diverted the spectators two hours and a half, he will open his mouth wide and jump down his own throat ! He, being the most wonderfulest wonder of wonders as ever the world wondered at, would be willing to join in performance with that surprising musieian on Monday next, in the Haymarket. He is to be spoke with at the Blaek Raven in Golden Lane every day from seven till twelve, and from two to all day long.”

A newspaper of December 19th, 1751, announceed as follows : “ At the new theatre in the Haymarket, this day, will be performed a eoneert of musiek, in two acts. Boxes 3s., pit 2s., gallery 1s. Between the aets of the eoneert will be given, gratis, several exercises of rope-daneing and tumbling. There is also arrived the little woman from Geneva, who, by her extraordinary strength, performs several eurious things, viz. 1st. She beats a red-hot iron that is made crooked straight with her naked feet. 2dly. She puts her head on one chair, and her feet on another, in an equilibrium, and suffers five or six men to stand upon her body, whieh after some time she flings off. 3dly. An anvil is put on her body, on which two men strike with large hammers. 4thly. A stone of an hundred pounds weight is put on her body, and beat to pieees with a hammer. 5thly. She lies down on the ground, and suffers a stone of 1500 hundred pounds weight to be laid on her breasts, in which posture she speaks to the audienec, and drinks a glass

of wine, then throws the stone off from her body by mere strength, without any assistance. Lastly, she lifts an anvil of 200 pound weight from the ground with her own hair. To begin exactly at six o'clock."

The *Philosophical Transactions* for 1751 give an account of a dwarf, the son of one Lewis Hopkins, who, although he was entering the fifteenth year of his age, was no more than two feet seven inches in height, and thirteen pounds in weight, and who laboured under all the infirmities of very old age. He was weak and emaciated; his eyes were dim; his hearing very bad; his countenance fallen; and his voice very low and hollow. He had a dry, husky, inward cough; his head hung down before, so that his chin touched his breast; his shoulders were raised, and his back rounded, not unlike a hump-back; and his teeth were decayed and rotten. He was so weak that he could not stand erect without support. His father, a hearty man, and his mother, a comely, healthy woman in the prime of life, both said that he was naturally sprightly, although weakly, until he was seven years old, and would attempt to sing and play about. He then weighed nineteen pounds, and was as tall, if not taller, than he was at the age of fifteen years. He was naturally slight, well-grown, and in due proportion; but from the age of seven years he gradually declined and grew weaker, losing his teeth by degrees. He had a sister about ten years of age, who was in the same declining state. He was the second son of a family of six

children. He was baptised on January 29th, 1736, by the Rev. R. Harris, vicar of Lantrissent, Glamorganshire. In September, 1751, he was publicly exhibited for money at Bristol.

He is the same individual as the one referred to in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1751, by which we are informed that a dwarf from Glamorganshire was then being exhibited in London. He was in the fifteenth year of his age, was two feet six inches high, weighed only twelve pounds, and was very proportionable. We make some allowances for the discrepancies in the height and weight, remembering that in the first instance the dwarf was examined and described critically, and in the latter he was reported as an exhibited prodigy, and therefore his size and gravity were slightly diminished.

The same individual was thus advertised in 1752 :  
“ Hopkins Hopkins, the wonderful little Welchman, who has given general satisfaction to all the curious that have seen him, by whom he is acknowledged to be one of the rarest and greatest prodigies now in the world, being a youth fifteen years of age, whose height is no more than thirty inches, weighs but twelve pounds, yet is in all respects proportionable. His stature represents true human miniature, his gravity old age ; a curiosity far surpassing all others in this present age hitherto exposed to publick view. He is to be seen till Friday night, two doors below the King's Head, in the Old Jewry ; and for the better convenieney of the nobility, quality, and gen-



try of that part of the town that are desirous to see him, he will be to be seen on Saturday, the 25th of this instant, &c., at Mr. Parish's, upholsterer, in St. Albans-street, near Pall Mall. His stay there will be but short."

In the same year he issued the following advertisement: "At a private house, three doors below the King's Head, in the Old Jewry, there is to be seen the Wonderful Little Welchman, who has given great satisfaction to the curious in divers parts of this kingdom, especially to her royal highness the Princess of Wales, and all her royal family, he having the honour of being twice at Leicester House, and has had each time a very handsome present. He gave so much satisfaction to their royal highnesses that in a short time they must see him again; for he is a most curious and uncommon prodigy in nature; being a youth in the fifteenth year of his age, whose height is no more than two foot six inches, weighs but twelve pounds, yet is in all respects proportionable, bears an exact symmetry, and appears with so much gravity as to represent the age of sixty years. He was also shewn to the Royal Society, who unanimously declared their surprise and admiration, he being the greatest curiosity ever seen, for he far surpasses all other dwarfs that ever have been exposed to publick view."

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1754 chronicles his death on March 19th in that year, in Glamorganshire. He died of mere old age and decay of nature,

at seventeen years and two months old. He never weighed more than nineteen pounds, but for three years before his decease he was no heavier than about twelve pounds. His parents had still five or six children left, all of whom were in no way different from others, except one girl, whom we have before referred to, and who was then about twelve years of age, weighed only eighteen pounds, had most of the marks of an advanced period of life, and in all respects resembled her dwarf brother when he was of her age.

In the *Scots' Magazine* for August, 1751, is the following epigram on a very short but handsome lady :

“ If little things with little folks agree,  
As little Bett allows,  
O, then may little Bett at last decree,  
And wed a little spouse.”

In 1751 a peasant of Friesland was exhibited for money at Amsterdam. He was then twenty-six years of age, and only twenty-nine inches high, Amsterdam measure.

In 1751 was executed a fine drawing in Indian ink, representing a dwarf personating fifteen different characters.

In 1752 was engraved the portrait of Little Will, a waiter at the Turk's Head coffee-house. He is represented with a wig, a white apron, and a pair of snuffers pendant from its string. Caulfield, in his *Remarkable Persons*, 1819, has reproduced this por-

trait. The Turk's Head in Will's time was noted for the free discussion of politics, and he was almost as good a politician as the gentlemen whom he served. He was of a squat figure, and very awkwardly and clumsily limbed. He had a large head, and, as if to render him more curious, an habitual trick of playing with his thumbs. Despite his personal defects, he was a man of sound sense and discernment.

The *London Magazine* for June, 1753, contains a long account of the adventures, also a full-length portrait, of Bertholde, the dwarf prime minister to Alboinus, King of Lombardy. His personal appearance is thus described: "Bertholde had a large head, as round as a football, adorned with red hair, very straight, and which had a great resemblance to the bristles of a hog; an extremely short forehead, furrowed with wrinkles; two little bleary eyes, edged round with a border of bright carnation, and overshadowed by a pair of large eyebrows, which upon occasion might be made use of as brushes; a flat red nose, resembling an extinguisher; a wide mouth, from which proceeded two long crooked teeth, not unlike the tusks of a boar, and pointing to a pair of ears like those which formerly belonged to Mydas; a lip of a monstrous thickness, which hung down on a chin that seemed to sink under the load of a beard, thick, straight, and bristly; a very short neck, which nature had adorned with a kind of necklace, formed of ten or twelve small wens. The rest of his body was perfectly agreeable to the grotesque appearance

of his visage; so that, from head to foot, he was a kind of monster, who by his deformity and the hair with which he was covered had a greater resemblance to a bear half lieked into form than to a human creature. But though nature had treated him so ill with respect to his body, she had recompensed him by the subtlety, the agreeableness, and the solidity of the mind she had united to it."

"Bertholde was born of poor parents, in a village called Bertagnona, at some miles distance from Verona. The small fortune of his father, and his having ten children, would not permit the good man to give them the least education. But as for Bertholde, he had a fund of wit which sufficiently made him amends for the poverty of his parents and the deformity of his person."

In his youth he went to Verona to seek his fortunes, and there introduced himself to the king, who, astonished at his brusque humour and frank wisdom, made him a member of his court, and ultimately his prime minister. He survived to the age of seventy years, when he had a wife named Mareolfa, and a son under twenty-five years old. At that advanced period of his life he made his will, which is full of dry wit and worldly knowledge; the trifling bequests therein made show that he possessed very little property; in fact, he says that he preferred to remain poor, so that he might retain repose and tranquillity.

Early in the reign of George III., which commenced in 1760, died Cornelius Caton, who had

obtained great notoriety as the keeper of the White Lion tavern at Richmond, in Surrey, in consequence of his wit, pleasantry, and singular appearance. He was so very diminutive in stature that he might have rivalled some of the exhibited dwarfs. He passed through the gradations of potboy, stable-helper, and waiter at a country inn, where he saved enough money to enable him to take the house at Richmond, in which he was very successful, and became a public character. Beekham engraved his portrait, and it had a great sale. It has been copied in the *Curiosities of Biography*, 1845.

A newspaper of November 17th, 1764, announced the death, a few days before, at Beauchamp St. Paul's, in Essex, of Edward Jay, a dealer in calves, who was no more than three feet and a half high, had not any joint at his knees, and was entirely straight to his hip-bone. He had only one arm and hand, with which, however, he could make a pen and buckle his shoes without stooping.

About 1765 was born at Lisbon George Romondo, an eccentric mimic, who was well known about the streets of London early in the present century under the name of Raymondo. He was about three feet six inches in height, each of his legs and thighs formed the segment of a circle, and his face was very odd-looking. He usually wore a large hat, cocked before and hanging down behind, and a long-skirted coat. There was scarcely any kind of sound which he was not capable of imitating. He gave



the tones of the trumpet, the violin, the horn, the drum, the bagpipe, and other instruments, the braying of asses, the grunting of hogs, the barking of dogs, and the sounds of almost all other animals, and the sawing of wood. He got his living by displaying his powers at public-houses, and he appeared at Bartholomew Fair in 1804. His portrait is given in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*.

The *Annual Register* for 1765, under the date of February, records the death, at Liège, of a woman aged one hundred years, who was only two feet eight inches high, and had never been able to walk without crutches.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1766 says that on May 17th in that year a man who measured only thirty-four inches in height, and was forty-six years old, arrived at the house of the Russian ambassador. This dwarf was a native of North Lapland.

In 1766 John Ford, aged nineteen years, and five feet six inches high, and Biddy Can, aged twenty years, and three feet three inches high, were married at Galway.

The *Annual Register* for 1767 cites a letter from the East Indies, which says that "On the 10th of September, 1766, came to our garden near Tranquebar a Moorish or Mahometan priest, a dwarf, aged forty-five years; his size was scarce that of an ordinary child of four years old. What was remarkable in this case was, that he was not at all misshapen, but all his limbs seemed as well propor-

tioned from head to foot as those of any other person. He sang in the Persian, but understood very little of the Malabar language. The former Governor of Madras had his image cast in brass, since the dwarf himself could not be persuaded to go to Europe. He walked a little in our plantation to look about him; but as walking was troublesome to him on account of a disorder in his breast, one of our people carried him in his arms like a child, which he liked very well."

The *London Chronicle* of February 16th, 1768, says that "a few days ago was married Mr. Richard Mallard, the English dwarf, to Miss Mary Crow, the Irish Lilliputian, both of Crane-lane."

On February 10th, 1770, was born at Dundee Andrew Whiston, who became a well-known character in London streets, where he used to push himself about on a small cart which moved upon wheels, wearing an apron to conceal the horrible deformity of his legs. His whole height, including his cart, did not exceed two feet some few inches. Kirby, in his *Wonderful Museum*, gives an engraving, dated 1813, of this dwarf, who was then living, and had resided in London for twenty years previously. He had lodged for four years at No. 4, Paris-gardens, near Bankside. He was jilted in love by a Mrs. Marshall, the widow of a waterman, who retailed fish in the Surrey-road, where her deformed admirer plied his vagrant trade of a pen-dealer and beggar. After accepting presents from him, and

naming the happy day, she abandoned the match, in consequence of the ridicule of her friends, notwithstanding her previous hopes of sharing his hoard of money. In 1826 was published the *History of Andrew Whiston, King of the Beggars*, with a portrait.

## CHAPTER XIV.

Thomas Cartwright—Dwarf at Paris—Shropshire Dwarf—Rogers—Thomas Carter—Peter Bono—William Boram—Sir Jeffrey Dunstan—Mayors of Garratt—Sir Harry Dimsdale—Thomas Allen—Lady Morgan, the Windsor Fairy—Amusing Letter from her—Woman in Miniature—The Great Contrast—Mrs. Kelly, the Irish Fairy—Normandy Dwarf—Ann Clowes—Whitelamb—Miss Pinmont—Akeneil, German Dwarf—Simon Paap—Wybrand Lolkes—Peter Davies—Calvin Philips—Aged Polish Dwarf in Russia—Burns and Dwarfs—The Town Steeple—The Black Dwarf—David Ritchie—Hay, Dwarf M.P.—La Grandeur—Norfolk Fairy—Yorkshire Little Man—Little Jenny—Portuguese Dwarf—Peter Dauntlow—Dwarf in Norfolk—Dwarf Mother—Crutehy Jack—John Hauptman—Nannette Stocker—Paris Dwarf—Miss Smith—Leach—his Feats—Elizabeth Ralph—Dwarf Stone—Captain Starkey—Yorkshire married Dwarf—Caroline Craehami—her Body stolen and sold.

THE *Annual Register* for 1773 records the death of Thomas Cartwright, at Leicester, in March in that year. He was twenty-four years old, measured only thirty-six inches in height, and never had any teeth.

In 1774 the public were shown at the fair of St. Germaine, in Paris, a female dwarf, twenty years of age, and only twenty-eight inches high. She was well-made; but her voice and manners were infantine.

About this time died at Wem, in Shropshire, a lame and deformed woman, named Mary Jane, who was only thirty-two inches high.

We have before us an engraving by Nilson, in 1775, representing Catharina Helena Stöberin, who was born at Nürnberg. She was seventeen years of age, and only two feet four inches in height. She is depicted standing upon a table in a room near an open window; and she wears a full skirt, low body, short sleeves, and her hair tied behind with a ribbon.

The *Annual Register* for 1776 records the death, on April 28th in that year, of Mr. Rogers, the master of the Sun alehouse in the Borough, who was four feet three inches high.

The same work for 1777 says, that in October of that year Thomas Carter, who was about twenty-five years of age, and only three feet four inches high, died. A newspaper of October 3d, 1777, records that on "Wednesday died, in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Thomas Carter, the dwarf, who was shewn last Bartholomew Fair. He was about twenty-five years of age, and when alive was only three feet four inches high. It is supposed that his drinking too much at the fair occasioned his death."

The *Scots' Magazine* for December, 1779, contains the following epigram on a pigmy's death, by Dr. Spratt:

"Bestride an ant a pigmy great and tall  
Was thrown, alas, and got a deadly fall.  
Under th' unruly beast's proud feet he lies,  
All torn; but yet with generous ardour cries,  
'Behold, base envious world,—now, now laugh on;  
For thus I fall, and thus fell Phaeton.'"



In 1780 was published a woodcut of Peter Bono, a dwarf three feet two inches high.

William Boram, a dwarf three feet high, aged thirty-six years, was buried on June 11th, 1780, in Putney churchyard. He was by trade a basket-maker, a man of weak intellect, and a great drinker. His voice was harsh; his head was disproportionably large; his whole person was rather thick; he moved about with difficulty, and did not enjoy good health.

A well-known character about London, in the last century, was Sir Jeffrey Dunstan, the dwarf Mayor of Garratt. The inhabitants of Garratt, a place situated between Wandsworth and Tooting, had certain rights in a small common. These rights having been encroached upon, the inhabitants met in conelave, elected a president, resisted the encroachment, and ultimately restituted their claims. This event happening at the time of a general election, it was resolved that the president or mayor should hold his office during the continuance of Parliament, and be reëlected with a new one; and afterwards the paraphernalia of a serious election was parodied in this mock one.

In 1781 nine candidates contested for the so-called borough, one being Jeffrey Dunstan, an itinerant buyer and seller of old wigs, who turned out to be one of the most popular of the candidates that ever appeared on the Garratt hustings; he being returned the member for three successive parliaments. As was usual with the pseudo-mayors of

the borough, he adopted the prefix of a title to his name; and being a humorist, possessing a fund of vulgar wit, and having an extremely grotesque manner and personal appearance, he commanded much public attention.

Previously to his election he had been long known about the streets of London by his loud and whimsical manner of crying his goods, "old wigs." He usually carried his wig-bag over his shoulder; and it was also his custom to walk about hatless, wearing his shirt and vest open to the waist, his breeches unbuttoned at the knees, and his stockings ungartered. He was dwarfish in size, and knock-kneed; his head was disproportioned to his body; and his countenance was irresistibly humorous. He never appeared without a train of boys and curious persons, whom he entertained with his sallies of wit, shrewd sayings, and smart repartees, and from whom, without begging, he collected sufficient to maintain his much-assumed dignity of mayor and knight.

In four successive years, 1777 to 1780 inclusive, Hall, of the City-road, a preserver of animals, exhibited at Bartholomew Fair stuffed birds and beasts; and, in order to obtain notice, he engaged Sir Jeffrey to give his imitations of street cries, and vociferate "old wigs;" but he did not draw much custom. In the height of his popularity an attempt was made to bring him out upon the stage in the part of Doctor Last, at the Haymarket Theatre. The

announcement of his appearance drew a crowded house; but, notwithstanding the laborious tutoring to which he had been previously subjected, he broke down when the curtain drew up; and, faltering in his part, he was hissed off the stage. In 1795 several tradesmen's tokens which bore Sir Jeffrey's figure were issued.

He used to speak of his daughters as Miss Dinah and beautiful Miss Nancy, the latter being elevated into Lady Ann after she married Lord Thompson, a dustman of Bethnal-green. Sir Jeffrey was no respecter of persons, and was so severe in his jokes on the corruptions of men in office, that he was prosecuted for using seditious expressions; and in 1793 he was tried, convicted, and imprisoned. In consequence of this affair, and of some charges of dishonesty which were brought against him, he lost his popularity, and at the contest for the election of mayor in 1796 he was beaten by Sir Harry Dimsdale, a deformed dwarf, little better than an idiot, who used to cry muffins in the streets of Soho, and who, being the last mayor of Garratt, died about 1809. Sir Jeffrey was in the habit of rehearsing his election speeches, and giving his imitations of popular London cries at public-houses in Whitechapel, in company with Ray, a tinker, and Sir Charles Hartis, a deformed fiddler and an unsuccessful candidate for Garratt.

The latter days of this man were spent by him, in much poverty and misery, in a wretched shed

near to Mile-end turnpike, in Bethnal-green, where he died from excessive drinking in 1797. Charles Lamb wrote a gossiping paper upon Sir Jeffrey, in which the writer records the beggary of the dwarf's last years. A coloured print gives a portrait of Sir Jeffrey, with the following motto beneath it:

“When you've got money you're look'd upon ;  
But when you've got none you may go along.”

The lady mayoress of Garratt, Sir Jeffrey's wife, survived him twenty-one years; and upon her death she was, in November, 1818, interred in the grave of her husband in Whitechapel churchyard. The inscription on her coffin stated that she died at the age of one hundred and one years. Notwithstanding her wretched poverty, she retained her dignified title to the last.

One season it was announced that a caravan in Bartholomew Fair contained Mr. Thomas Allen, the most surprising small man ever before the public. He had, at the Lyceum in the Strand, excited in the breasts of the Dukes of York and Clarence sensations of wonder and delight. “Also Miss Morgan, the celebrated Windsor Fairy, known in London and Windsor by the addition of Lady Morgan, a title which his Majesty was pleased to confer on her. This unparalleled woman is in the 35th year of her age, and only 18 pounds weight. Her form affords a pleasing surprise, and her admirable symmetry engages attention. She was in-

trodueed to their Majesties at the Queen's Lodge, Windsor, on Saturday the 4th of August, 1781, by the reecommodation of the late Dr. Hunter ; when they were pleased to pronounce her the finest display of human nature in miniature they ever saw. But we shall say no more of these wonders of nature : let those who honour them with their visits judge for themselves.

‘ Let others boast of stature, or of birth,  
This glorious truth shall fill our souls with mirth :  
That we now are, and hope for years to sing,  
The smallest subjects of the greatest king.’

Admittanee to ladies and gentlemen, 1s. ; ehildren, half-priece. In this, and many other parts of the kingdom, it is too eommon to show deformed persons, with various arts and deeceptions, under denominations of persons in miniature, to impose on the publie. This little eouple are, beyond eontra-dietion, the most wonderful display of nature ever held out to the admiration of mankind.

“ N.B. The above lady's mother is with her, and will attend at any lady or gentleman's house, if required.”

An engraving by J. Mills, in 1803, in the author's possession, represents Thomas Allen and Lady Morgan, holding each other's right hand. The gentleman was then thirty-five years old, and three feet three inches high ; and the lady was forty-five years of age, and three feet in height. The former wears a wig with a long loose tail, a coat, and hessian



boots. The latter wears a poke bonnet, a long-skirted dress, and high-heeled shoes; and in her left hand she carries a fan. The artist has depicted her as being very aged in the face.

The *European Magazine*, for August, 1809, contains a dramatic sketch, in which one scene is laid on the stage of a theatre. Bayes, a stage poet, says to Johnson, a town gentleman, "You have heard of the tall man and the short woman?" Johnson replies, "The latter I have." Bayes answers, "Now mind me. I shall have her here presently." The prompter here announces the arrival of some ladies; whereupon Bayes says, "I wish the short woman may be amongst them. Mr. Coupler wants to bring her and the tall man together—but it will never be a match." This sketch gave rise to the following amusing letter from Lady Morgan, the dwarf, which appeared in the same magazine for the next month, and which shows that she understood the invocation of the weaver of Kilmarnock—"The Lord gie us a gude conceit o' oursels:"

" Smithfield, Sept. 3, 1809.

"SIR,—As I have only come to town for a few days, which indeed I usually do at this season of the year, I am naturally inquisitive respecting any circumstance arising in this metropolis that may afford amusement to my friends in the country; and as I know of no better directing-post than the supporter of the *European Magazine*, which correctly

points its finger towards the different roads of fact, humour, or absurdity, I applied to that object as to a sure guide; but upon an inspection of your last number—for your works are numbered like milestones—I must confess that I was a good deal surprised to find that you have chosen to make free with the short woman, and still more hurt to learn that my friends will have it I am designated by that appellation, and that you have dared to take those liberties with me, whom they say the judicious manager chose from the pigmy race to lengthen out a piece. Now this, give me leave, sir, to say, I flatly deny. I never saw the Irish Giant, if by the tall man you mean him, but once in my life (it was at L——fair), when I admired him for his size, as everyone else did; but, therefore, to suppose that a matrimonial treaty betwixt us was on the *tapis* is the very height of absurdity. Nor is there any more truth in the report that the late Mr. Lambert had made overtures of the same nature to me; though the wags at N—— said take which I would it was as broad as it was long. Respecting the first assertion, that I had been called on like a dwarfish page to hold up the dragged tail of a burletta, it is as false as the other reports. The short woman, whomsoever she may be, is no relation of mine; though if I had appeared upon the stage alluded to they would certainly (as this note can testify) have had at least the external appearance of wit: ay, and of wit as it always should be displayed, bound in a small compass,

a kind of pocket volume, like—what? nothing that has been lately published. However, as this is neither here nor there, let me return to the complaint which I have set forth merely to request you to correct the error that you have fallen into. This is the more necessary, as I can assure you that, although diminutive, I am a person of no small importance. My grandfather was Timothy Tuck, Esq., the little hero mentioned in the *Guardian* (No. 92\*); my great-uncle Thomas Tiptoe, Esq., the little lover, who was maliciously accused by a lady of purloining her sizzars-sheath to make him a scabbard for his sword; my father, Ragotin Tuck, Esq., was the little beau of the last age, so well known in the green-rooms for pestering the actresses; and although there is no truth in the story that one of them shut him up in a clothes-trunk, yet the thing might have been a dramatic effect. Thus, you see, sir, I have a line of ancestry to boast, though not great, certainly splendid; I mean splendid in its records. Of myself I shall say but little: the impulse of correction, rather than of vanity, guides my pen: therefore I have only to request that you will set the public right with regard to me, or I declare I will never hereafter consider either you or your works with the least degree of favour, nor shall you or your publisher in future even so much as squeeze the little finger of

“LADY MORGAN.”

\* Vide page 316.

A newspaper of June 20th, 1782, advertised that there was “to be seen at the late Bird-shop, the corner of the Haymarket and Piccadilly, the astonishing Irish Giant, whose height surpasses the Patagonian; with admirable symmetry of body, and esteemed to be the most proportioned ever seen. Also arrived from abroad, the most Curious Woman in Miniature, measures no more than thirty-two inches, aged twenty-two; and is well proportioned; her surprising littleness makes a striking impression on the spectator’s mind. The nobility and gentry are hereby acquainted that their stay will be short, as they have the most pressing invitations to go to Paris.”

A handbill of the same period called public attention to “The Great Contrast. Just arrived from Ireland, and to be seen at the late Bird-shop, the corner of the Haymarket and Piccadilly, the Astonishing Giant, or Tall Man. . . . Also to be seen at the same place, a Surprising Little Woman. She is twenty-two years of age, and but thirty-four inches high, and is well proportioned. Her surprising littleness makes a striking impression, at the first sight, on the spectator’s mind. Nothing disagreeable either in person or conversation is to be found in her; her form affords a pleasing surprise, and her admirable symmetry engages their attention. She is possessed of a great deal of vivacity and spirit.”

The *Gentleman’s Magazine*, for September, 1784, tells us of a marriage at the end of August in that

year: "At St. Hilary, near Marazion, Cornwall, a girl who goes by the name of the Irish Fairy, being only 34 inches high. She has travelled some years in company with a man who calls himself the Irish Giant, and both together exhibited a striking contrast.\* The heart of a young man, a dealer in Manchester goods, was inflamed by this female at Totness, whence he pursued her to Marazion, where he persuaded her to leave her gigantic companion." This giant was probably the same person as the one whose marriage is mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the same month as having taken place on the 11th: "By special license at Wisbech, Mr. O'Burne, the Irish Giant, to Miss Mary Anne Colston, of Merton-sea-End, near Spalding." If such be the fact, Hymen claimed both the prodigies immediately after they had dissolved copartnership. About fifteen hundred persons were present at the giant's nuptials. He was a rival of Byrne and Cotter, both of whom took the name of O'Brien. The cognomen of O'Burne was most likely an *alias*, and a compound of the names Byrne and O'Brien, adopted for show purposes.

The little lady's marriage was very unfortunate, as about twelve months after its celebration she died in giving birth to her first child. Thus, the *Annual Register* and the *Scots' Magazine* for 1785 record the death, on October 15th or 18th, in Berry-street, St. John Sepulchre, Norwich, at the age of

\* Vide page 170.



twenty-nine years and two months, of Mrs. Catherine Kelly, the noted Irish Fairy, who was only thirty-four inches high. She was that morning, about six hours before her death, delivered of a large and full-grown child, twenty-two inches and a half long and weighing seven pounds, by Messrs. Morgate, Donne, and Rigby. The child lived about two hours after its birth. Mrs. Kelly had been shown in Norwich some time previously to her death; the smallness and good proportion of her figure, without deformity, and the circumstance of her being pregnant, caused a vast number of people to see her, and she was then regarded as the greatest curiosity ever seen. An octavo engraved portrait of a dwarf called "The Fairy Queen," holding a flower in her right hand, was published without date. Probably it represents Mrs. Kelly.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1783, under the date of March 31st, records the death at Hayneville, in Normandy, at the age of twenty-one years, of a remarkable dwarf, named Louis Crane, only two feet four inches and three lines high. His voice was a little more masculine than that of a child of the same size; but he scarcely spoke more than single words, and those were chiefly monosyllables. He imitated the cries of dogs, cats, and sheep; pointed with his hand to things which he knew; and would laugh, although he was commonly melancholy, and sometimes cried. He seemed to be occupied with nothing, and had every appearance of a child of three years old; his

health was bad ; he drew his breath hard, and had no perceivable pulse. His mother said he was extremely weak when he came into the world, and seemed not to have any bones. Although he was not crooked, he was much deformed all his life.

The *European Magazine*, for March, 1783, says that a tall gentleman, then lately conversing with a short one, asked him what advantages there were in being short. To which he answered : “Two very great ones ; first, short persons may stand upright where tall ones cannot ; second, short people may be assisted by tall ones on many occasions, where tall persons could not be helped by short ones.”

About this time died Thomas Coates, who was only forty inches high.

The *Annual Register* for 1784 says, that on August 5th, in that year, Anne Clowes, aged one hundred and three years, died at Matlock, in Derbyshire. She measured three feet nine inches in height, and weighed about forty-eight pounds. The house in which she resided was in proportion as diminutive as herself, containing only one room, about eight feet square.

The *Scots' Magazine*, for April, 1785, announced the marriage, on the 5th of that month, at Ripley church, of Robert Long, of Burnet-Yates, to Miss H. Reynard, of the same place. There was a great disparity both in the age and in the size of this couple ; the bridegroom being seventy-three years old, and more than six feet high ; and the bride

being twenty years of age, and little more than three feet in height.

Morley, in his *Bartholomew Fair*, gives us a copy of a pen-and-ink sketch of a dwarf who was exhibited at the fair, taken in 1787. It represents Richard Kelham Whitelamb standing at the door of a sedan-chair. A handbill of this dwarf, formerly in the collection of Mr. Hazlewood, on which is written, "23d Aug., 1787," runs as follows: "To be seen at —— [a blank in which the place of exhibition was to be filled in], the English dwarf. This amazing prodigy of nature was born at Wisbeach, in Cambridgeshire; is now in the twenty-second year of his age; straight, and well made; is only thirty-four inches high, and weighs thirty-two pounds. All who have seen him allow him to be the greatest curiosity they ever saw. 'Richard Kelham Whitelamb, son of Richard Kelham Whitelamb, was baptized December 29, 1763, as appears by the parish register of Wisbech, St. Peter's.—John Leroo, A.M., curate. July 19, 1786.' This wonderful prodigy of nature will wait upon ladies or gentlemen, at their own houses, at the shortest notice. Ladies and gentlemen what they please. Tradesmen threepence each. At the same place may be had his infallible balsam, for strengthening the hair, and increasing the growth." This is the only instance of a dwarf combining a quack trade with his exhibition of himself that we have met with.

A newspaper of June 11th, 1788, contains an

advertisement of a wonderful giant: "To be seen at No. 24 Charing Cross. Also to be seen at the same place, that wonderful production of nature Miss Pimmont, the celebrated fairy, twenty-two years of age, and but thirty-four inches high."

The author has a scarce and well-finished French engraving by Alessandri, undated, which represents a neat and pretty male dwarf, dressed in military costume and a wig, holding in his left hand a plumed hat, and standing on a terrace beside a flag and a drum. In the foreground lie a sword, bayonet, and knapsack. The superscription, in French, tells us that his name was Akeneil, and that he was born in Germany, in the Black Forest. He was fifteen years of age, thirty inches in height, and had not grown taller since he was five years old. He was very beautiful, gay, lively, and active, and he learned easily, and retained his knowledge.

About May, 1788, this dwarf was exhibited in Paris, where he issued the following advertisement: "Par permission du Roi & de Monsieur le Lieutenant Général de Police. Avis. Le Petit Homme de la Forêt Noire.

Malgré sa petite structure,  
Ce nain n'a pas à se plaindre des soins  
De la bienfaisante nature,  
Son esprit a le plus, & son corps a le moins.

Le sieur Akenheil [the above engraving says Akeneil] a vingt huit poudes justes de haut; ce n'est point de ces êtres difformes, qui révoltent le public, en tromp-

ant sa euriosité. Toutes les parties de son eorps sont dans les plus justes proportions. Il parle très bien François, Italien, & Allemand ; il répond à toutes les questions sur la géographie. Il fait adroitement des tours de physique & l'exereice militaire. De prix des placees est de 24 sols. On pourra le voir tous les jours au Palais Royal, depuis dix heures du matin jusqu'à deux heures, & depuis quatre heures du soir jusqu'à neuf heures. Les personnes qui désireront le voir chez elles le seront avertir, quand elles le jugeront à propos."

On May 25th, 1789, was born at Zand Voort, in Holland, the dwarf Simon Paap. His father was a fisherman, and besides this son had four other children, namely two sons and two daughters, who were all of the ordinary height. Simon was a fine thriving ehild until he attained the age of three years, when he eeased to grow, and from that period remained stationary. At twenty-six years he did not exceed twenty-eight inches in height, and weighed only twenty-seven pounds. He was handsome and well-proportioned in his limbs and body, but his head was rather large for his size. His appetite was moderate, and seldom exceeded that of a ehild of three or four years old. He took his wine freely, but without excess, and was fond of his pipe and pinch of snuff. He was extremely affable and communieative, and spoke the Dutch, French, and English languages.

Previously to his arrival in England, about 1815,



he publicly exhibited himself in Holland, where he received some valuable presents. In England he appeared wearing a jacket of blue silk, large loose breeches of blue figured satin of the Dutch cut, white silk waistcoat, and white silk stockings, with buckles in his shoes. On his left side he wore a miniature portrait of the Prince of Orange set in gold, it being a present to him from the princess. The front of his dress was ornamented with two large gold buttons, and on his fingers were several rings.

He exhibited himself in England, where he caused a sensation among the curiosity-seekers of the day. Dr. Robert Bigsby tells us that he saw Paap in a caravan in the market-place, Nottingham, about 1815. He was presented to the Queen, the Prince Regent, and the whole of the royal family at Carlton House, on May 5th, 1815. He was introduced by Mr. Daniel Gynell to the Lord Mayor on September 1st, 1815, and was exhibited in the course of four days in Smithfield to upwards of twenty thousand persons.

He twice appeared at Covent-garden Theatre, where he went through his novel exhibition of the manual and platoon exercise, in which he fired off a small gun. When off duty he appeared in the streets at the West-end dressed as a boy of about four years old, and generally with a small whip in his hand. A female like a nursemaid was always with him for the purpose of screening him from public notice.

The *Weekly Messenger* of September 8th, 1816, contains the following advertisement: "Ram Inn,

West Smithfield. Mr. Gynge, owing to the very flattering encouragement he experienced at his new Jubilee Pavillion during the Fair by the most respectable company, is induced to exhibit the whole of his mechanical and scientific entertainments at the Ram Inn, West Smithfield, to-morrow, Monday, and two following evenings . . . . After which, Mr. Paap, the smallest man in the world, will be exhibited, being only 28 inches in height, weight 27 lbs., and 27 years old. The same entertainments will be exhibited at Edmonton Fair on Saturday next, and on Monday and Tuesday, the 16th and 17th; also at Croydon Fair on the 2nd and 3rd of October."

Paap was at Oxford in 1818, and in the same year he was at Bartholomew Fair. His custom was to present his visitors with his autograph. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries* for July 14th, 1850, said he possessed a scrap of paper on which Paap had written, in his presence, "Mr. Simon Paap, age 28 years, in height 28 inches, weighs only 27 lb." It was written in a rather small but distinct hand, and the capital letters were very much flourished. There is an engraved portrait of this dwarf in Morley's *Bartholomew Fair*, and also a fac-simile of his autograph: "Mr. Simon Paap, age 29 years, in height 28 inches, weighs only 27 lb." His portrait is also engraved in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, dated 1817, and in the *Biographia Curiosa*, 1822.

The *Algemeen Handelsblad* for May 9th, 1860, says that in that month, at a public sale held at Haar-

lem, a shoe which had belonged to Paap was sold. Paap died at Dendermonde on December 2d, 1828. Two marble stones on a pillar in the porch of the Brouwer's chapel, in Haarlem cathedral, indicate the size of this dwarf and of Daniel Cajanus the giant, whose slipper the former overtopped by only a few inches.

The portrait of Wybrand LolkES, a Dutch dwarf twenty-seven inches high, engraved by P. Mequignon, was published in 1790. He was born at Jelst, in West Friesland, in the year 1730. He was one of the eight children of a poor fisherman, both his parents and all their other children being of the ordinary stature. At an early age he gave proofs of a taste for mechanism, and when sufficiently grown up, he was, by the interest of some friends, placed with an eminent watch and clock maker at Amsterdam, to learn the art of horology. He continued in the service of his master for four years after he had completed his apprenticeship, when he removed to Rotterdam, and commenced business on his own account. Here he became acquainted with the woman whom he afterwards married. His trade of a watchmaker failing, he commenced to exhibit himself as a show, and by attending the various Dutch fairs he obtained a handsome competency. He then came to England, and landing at Harwich, he was visited there by crowds of people. He proceeded to London, and was engaged by Philip Astley at a weekly salary of five guineas. He first appeared at the Amphitheatre, by Westminster-bridge, on Easter

Monday, in 1790, and continued to exhibit there every evening during the season. He was always accompanied by his wife, who came on to the stage with him hand-in-hand; but although he elevated his arm, she was compelled to stoop considerably in order that her hand might reach his.

He had by her three children, one of whom, a son, lived to the age of twenty-three years, and was five feet seven inches in height. Lolkes, when sixty years of age, was only twenty-seven inches high; and notwithstanding his clumsy and awkward appearance, was remarkably agile, possessed unusual strength, and could with the greatest ease spring from the ground on to a chair of ordinary height. He had rather a morose temper, and was extremely vain of himself, and while discoursing in broken English, he was very dignified in his manner. He continued in England only one season, and by the help of his salary and a good benefit he returned to his native country with a large sum of money.

A portrait of him, with his tall, pretty, young wife beside him, was engraved by Wilkes, and published by C. Johnson. It is subscribed: "Mynheer Wybrand Lolkes, the celebrated man in miniature, from West Friesland, and Madame Lolkes, his wife, by whom he had three children, all live-born and christened." This dwarf is represented in a wig, knee-breeches, and buckled shoes; and on a table, to the level of which the top of his wig just reaches, rests his three-cornered hat. Mr. Fillinham had in

his collection a private etching of this dwarf. His and his wife's portraits are given in Wilson's *Wonderful Characters*, and in Smeeton's *Biographia Curiosa*.

In 1791 appeared an engraving, by Burt, representing Peter Davies, an Irish dwarf, who was three feet six inches high, with O'Brien, the Irish giant.

On January 14th, 1791, was born at Bridgewater, in the State of Massachusetts, a dwarf named Calvin Philips, who at his birth scarcely weighed two pounds, his thigh being no thicker than a man's thumb. His mother, a poor woman, used to carry him in her bosom while she was spinning. He was very healthy, had a good appetite, and escaped all infantine complaints except the whooping-cough, which he had favourably. He was weaned at the age of seven months, began to crawl at nine months, and to walk at eighteen months; but he did not begin to talk until he was four years old. His teeth came at ten or eleven months, without pain, and he afterwards had the usual number. From his birth until he was two years old he grew very slowly; thence he increased in height more perceptibly until he was five years of age, after which period he ceased to grow. At eight his height was twenty-six inches and a half, and his weight twelve pounds, including his clothes. He was active, playful, sprightly, very irascible, and much devoted to childish sports. He was in no way deformed, but on the contrary was most symmetrically shaped. His figure was well



proportioned, and his face, although long, thin, and delicate, was regular, agreeable, and matured beyond his years. His hair and complexion were light, his eyes blue, his voice shrill, and his speech less articulate than was common with boys at his age. He was reserved to strangers, and his mental attainments, the cultivation of which had been neglected, were not up to the ordinary standard of boys of his years.

His father, who was about the middle size, was twenty-four years of age when this child was born; and his mother, who was rather above the ordinary height, was twenty-six, both being sound and healthy. They had five other children, all of whom were healthy and of the usual size. Early in the present century, and before 1810, Calvin was exhibited in New York, where he was under the care of his maternal grandfather and grandmother—the former of whom was a large and robust man, aged fifty-six, and the latter was about the middle stature, and aged fifty-four.

Dr. Matthew Guthrie, in his work upon the *Antiquities of Russia*, 1795, tells us of an aged female dwarf, who was living, in 1794, at a nobleman's house in that country. He says: "One woman, in the house of a venerable nobleman, formerly attached to Peter the Great, and whom I have the honour of frequently seeing, particularly engaged my attention. The emperor took pleasure in viewing this dwarf, and used to call her his puppet, which the little creature is still proud of relating. From an inscription

under her portrait, in the possession of her present master, it appears that she was first made prisoner of war in Poland by Prince Mentchicoff; after whose disgrace she came into the hands of the Princess of Hesse-Homburg; and when she died General Betskoy, the princess's heir, took her as part of his inheritance. The inscription shows her to be nearly a century old. She is still brisk and lively, having the full use of her eyes, legs, and teeth, with an infantine voice when she cries, which often happens to her at the recollection of her ancient court dress, which she regrets exceedingly. Seen from behind she would be taken for a child of five or six years old, an age that her stature indicates. She is at this day (Oct. 15, 1794) without any infirmity of age, after an abode of eighty years in Russia."

The poet Burns (1759-1796) has given us two fancy sketches of dwarfs. One is "On wee Johnie:"

"Hie jacet wee Johnie.  
Whoe'er thou art, O reader, know  
That death has murder'd Johnie !  
An' here his body lies fu' low—  
For saul he ne'er had ony."

The other is upon "Wee Willie Gray:"

"Wee Willie Gray and his leather wallet :  
Peel a willow-wand to be him boots and jacket ;  
The rose upon the brier will be him trouse and doublet,  
The rose upon the brier will be him trouse and doublet,  
Wee Willie Gray and his leather wallet ;  
Twice a lily flower will be him sark and cravat :  
Feathers of a flee wad feather up his bonnet,  
Feathers of a flee wad feather up his bonnet."

The smallness of Willie's clothes reminds us of an ungallant proverb, cited by Ray in 1670, and for which there is an equivalent in the Italian language :

“ If a woman were as little as she is good,  
A pease-cod would make her a gown and a hood.”

A brushmaker of Edinburgh, so short as to be known as the “Town Steeple,” married a girl who was a little shorter than himself; they averaged thirty-four inches each, and were generally known as being as broad as they were long.

Sir Walter Scott founded his novel entitled the *Black Dwarf*, which was also the name of a London weekly publication, upon a real character, named David Ritchie, a native of Tweeddale, whom Scott visited in 1797. He was the son of a labourer in the slate-quarries of Stobo, and, as the novelist says, must have been born in the misshapen form which he exhibited, although he sometimes imputed it to ill-usage received in infancy. He, like the “Town Steeple” above mentioned, was brought up as a brushmaker at Edinburgh, and he wandered to several places, working at his trade, from all of which he was chased by the disagreeable attention that his hideous singularity of form and face attracted wherever he went.

Tired at length of being the object of shouts, laughter, and derision, Ritchie resolved to retreat to some sanctuary where he might be at peace. He therefore settled himself upon a patch of wild moorland at the bottom of a bank on the farm of Wood-

house, in the sequestered vale of the small river Manor, in Peeblesshire. The few people who had occasion to pass that way were much surprised, and some superstitious persons were a little alarmed, to see so strange a figure as Bow'd Davie (Crooked David) employed in a task for which he seemed so totally unfit as that of erecting a house. The cottage which he built was extremely small, but its walls, as well as those of a little garden that surrounded it, were constructed with much solidity.

He was not quite three feet and a half high, as he could stand upright in the door of his mansion, which was just that height. The *Scots Magazine* for 1817 contains an article by Robert Chambers, describing Ritelie as follows: "His skull, which was of an oblong and rather unusual shape, was said to be of such strength that he could strike it with ease through the panel of a door or the end of a barrel. His laugh is said to have been quite horrible; and his screech-owl voice, shrill, uncouth, and dissonant, corresponded with his other peculiarities. There was nothing very uncommon about his dress. He usually wore an old slouched hat when he went abroad; and when at home, a sort of eowl or nightcap. He never wore shoes, being unable to adapt them to his misshapen fin-like feet, but always had both feet and legs quite concealed, and wrapt up with pieces of cloth. He always walked with a sort of pole or pike-staff, considerably taller than himself. His

habits were, in many respects, singular, and indicated a mind congenial to its uncouth tabernacle. A jealous, misanthropical, and irritable temper was his prominent characteristic." Scott says that Ritchie was fond of Shenstone's *Pastorals* and *Paradise Lost*; and he appears to have been a man of thought and some genius. He died at the commencement of the present century.

The Black Dwarf was once held to be a formidable personage by the dalesmen of the Border, where he got the blame of whatever mischief befell the sheep or cattle. Scott relates an interesting legend of this dwarf. Dr. John Leyden says that this spirit was a fairy of the most malignant kind, the genuine northern Duergar; and he particularly mentions him under another colour, in a ballad called the *Cowt of Keeldar*.

A newspaper of 1798 records, that on May 23d in that year a woman, who by a strange anomaly was named Tall, and who was only forty inches in height, without any deformity, was delivered at the apartments of her husband, No. 9 Cupid's-court, Golden-lane, Old-street, of a male child, twenty-two inches in length, and weighing five pounds ten ounces.

Mr. Hay, a wealthy Sussex gentleman of the last century, who wrote poetry without much success, and had a seat in Parliament, was a misshapen dwarf. In his *Essay on Deformity* he frankly admits, while he ingeniously palliates, the disadvantages which



belong to an uncomely exterior. "Bodily deformity," he says, "is very rare, and therefore a person so distinguished has ill-luck in a lottery where there are a thousand prizes to one blank. Among the 558 gentlemen in the House of Commons, I am the only one that is so. Thanks to my worthy constituents, who never objected to my person, and I hope never to give them cause to object to my behaviour."

In the last century was published a whole-length portrait of a dwarf, "the celebrated Mons. La Grandeur, a famous French lawyer, eminent for his perfect knowledge of the practice of all the courts of justice." La Grandeur is represented in a wig, long vest, and buckled shoes; in his left hand he holds a stick and gloves, and under that arm a cocked-hat; in his right hand he holds up a book.

In the same century appeared the following notice: "At No. 125 Jermyn-street, St. James's, the Norfolk Fairy, Miss B. Purte, from Swaffham, her native place, humbly solicits the attention of the nobility and gentry; she is in her fifteenth year; her height thirty-nine inches. Too much cannot be said of the perfect symmetry of her engaging little figure, which is the most diminutive, perfect, and pleasing ever yet presented to publick view; her memory and taste are extraordinary. She repeats with great spirit, excellent ear, and generally just emphasis, many passages from the best English writers, particularly from Milton."

The same century produced the "Yorkshire Little

Man, Master Joseph Lee. This young gentleman in the nineteenth year of his age, stands only thirty inches high, and is twenty-two pounds weight. Is remarkably well proportioned, and allowed by every visitor to be the smallest and shortest man ever exhibited in the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. This little gentleman is a native of Fairburn, near Ferry-bridge, in Yorkshire. But the public will be pleased to observe that Master Lee entirely differs from all other individuals; which must be seen to be believed."

Jane Walker, commonly known as Little Jenny, who was only thirty-three inches in height, died at Winslow, Bucks, in February, 1802, at the age of fifty-seven years.

In the spring of 1805 Don Joze Cordero Pereira, who was then twenty-seven years of age, twenty-eight inches in height, elegantly formed, and well accomplished, arrived in London from Portugal, on a visit to the ambassador of that country. The Portuguese chargé d'affaires was accustomed to raise the Don erect on his hand, to carry him about the house, and to convey him from the hall of the ambassador's mansion to the carriage that took him to his own apartments.

Peter Dauntlow, a dwarf living in 1805, was the son of a Cossack in the regiment of Ladni. His parents, brothers, and sisters were all of the ordinary size; but he was only twenty-nine inches high. He had no arms, his shoulders terminating in small fleshy

stumps; and his head was most closely joined to his shoulders. His breast was flat, and his legs curved. He had no joints at the knees, the bones of his legs and thighs forming only one piece down to his heel. On each foot he had only four toes, all of which were curved. His figure, nevertheless, was not disagreeable, his air was manly, and he walked extremely fast; but if he happened to fall he could not rise again without help, for want of joints at his knees. He was not deficient in judgment, understanding, or memory, and manifested a great desire to learn and to improve his mind. He wrote very rapidly and legibly with his left foot, and his drawings with the pen were very beautiful. He sang, played at chess and cards, smoked (filling his pipe himself), knitted stockings, pulled off his boots, and helped himself to food with his left foot.

In May, 1807, died at Downham, in Norfolk, through excessive drinking, Martin King, sometime boots at the Castle inn, in that town. He was under four feet in height, and at one period of his life was exhibited as a dwarf.

The *Annual Register* for 1808 records that, on May 15th in that year, at the poorhouse, Stoke-upon-Trent, Hannah Bourne, a deformed dwarf, only twenty-five inches in height, was, after a tedious and difficult labour, safely delivered of a female child of the ordinary size, measuring twenty-one inches and a half in length, being only three inches and a half shorter than the mother. The child was in every

respect perfect, but still-born; the mother, contrary to expectation, was likely to do well.

About July, 1808, died at Llanvon, near Aberystwith, Jeremiah Davies, a very symmetrical Welsh dwarf, aged fifty-eight years, and measuring only forty-six inches in height. He had spent a great part of his time in London, where he was well known, and to which place he intended to have walked the week following the one in which he died.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1813 says, that on January 3d in that year died very suddenly John Marshal, a prodigy long known in Leeds by the name of Crutchy Jaek. This singularly diminutive man, although not more than thirty-six inches in height, was the father of eight fine robust children. Defective as was the conformation of his person, he survived to the age of sixty-two years, he having been born in 1751, and left a widow and four children, the youngest being about five years of age.

In March, 1815, were exhibited at No. 22 New Bond-street a male and female dwarf, named respectively John Hauptman and Nannette Stocker. They drew great crowds of people to witness not only their diminutive size, but also their wonderful performances—Nannette on the pianoforte, and Hauptman on the violin. The lady, who by a strange coincidence was then thirty-three years of age, thirty-three inches high, and weighed exactly thirty-three pounds, was born at Kammer, in Upper Austria. Her mother bore her ten months and twenty-four days before

her birth, and it was remarkable that the child was larger at the delivery than children usually are. After the age of four years her stature was fixed at thirty-three inches. Her mother was five feet three inches high; and her brother, who was two years younger than herself, was also of proper growth. She was perfectly formed in every respect. She always had a good appetite, and never experienced any illness. In consequence of her smallness, her guardian, who had adopted her at the death of her mother, commenced travelling with her as a show in October, 1797; and took her to Ratisbon, and thence over the continent of Europe, where she was much admired.

She is evidently the person referred to in the following newspaper paragraph of 1799: "There is now exhibiting at Berlin a female dwarf of a more diminutive and well-proportioned stature than any 'Jeu de Nature' hitherto seen; the celebrated Count Borawlski is much superior in stature, though not so in subtlety of genius and talents, to this new wonder of the age. Her name is Nannette Stockbrin: she is now seventeen years of age, and of the ordinary size and growth of a child of seven years old, exceedingly well proportioned, full of vivacity, and quick of apprehension. What is more remarkable, is the uncommon size and dimensions of this child at her birth, and for the two following years, in which she grew with so much rapidity as to attract the same notice from her unweildiness as she now



does from her diminutive proportion. Her parents were peasants in Saxony, and both of them above the middle stature."

Upon her visit to Strasburg in 1798 she was introduced to John Hauptman, who was at that time twenty years of age, and thirty-six inches and two lines in height, well made and proportioned. He was born at Ringendorff, near Bousvillers, on the Lower Rhine, his parents being of the common stature. He was under the care of the authorities of Bousvillers, whose permission Nannette's guardian obtained with some difficulty for him to accompany the little lady on her travels. At Clermont they performed at the Grand Theatre on the pianoforte, and danced. While in London, Nannette was described as being the most lively little person imaginable, full of talk, and always appearing with a smile. When not playing on the pianoforte, she was either knitting or working at her needle. She spoke English very well. Hauptman was more reserved; and when not accompanying the lady with his violin, he generally walked about the exhibition room. He was not master of the English language, and he appeared rather heavy. It was said that he had offered Nannette his hand and heart, which favours she had declined. These two dwarfs are engraved full-length, side by side, in Kirby's *Wonderful Museum*, 1820.

The *Morning Chronicle* for September 5th, 1817, tells us that a girl was then exhibiting in Paris who,

although she was seven years old, was only eighteen inches high, and weighed but six pounds. She was well proportioned, and conversed with great sprightliness and intelligence.

About 1816-1818, was exhibited in London Miss Smith, who was denominated a "Wonderful Female," seventeen years of age, only thirty-three inches high, weighing upwards of a hundred pounds, and perfectly straight and well formed. Her skin was described as being of the most beautiful texture.

During the same period was also exhibited in London Mr. Leach, called "The Wonderful Youth," who was about the age of eighteen years, of a pleasing countenance, possessed of great accomplishments, and was, of his age, "the shortest person in the world." This youth walked under the arm of the famous dwarf, Lady Morgan, without touching it by nearly four inches. He much amused his company by his numerous feats of agility. Standing upright on his feet he could touch the floor with his fingers; he could sit on the floor in a way no other person was able to do; but how that was we do not know. He walked down a flight of stairs on his hands, with his feet in the air, faster than any other person could on his feet. He took a pin out of the wall with his mouth, standing on one hand, and his feet upwards. He balanced himself on his hands on the top of a chair-back, from which he threw himself, and alighted on the ground on his hands, walking off on the same with the greatest ease. He placed a

pin on the floor, took it up with one hand, and supported his balance on the other, while he put it into his mouth. He laid himself on the floor by the strength of his arms, then raised himself up feet foremost, and walked off on his hands. He also walked in a horizontal position on his hands under a common table, without touching the table with his feet. Standing on a chair, he threw it backwards from him, alighting on his hands; and in that posture walked round the room. He possessed a peculiar and surprising way of running, totally different from any other person; and in his exhibition bill he challenged the whole world, for one thousand guineas, to produce any other person capable of competing with him.

In December, 1819, died at Charewater Elizabeth Ralph, the daughter of Joseph Ralph. Although she had attained her twenty-first year, her height was only two feet ten inches; she was rather well proportioned, and not at all deformed. During her life she never once laughed or cried, nor uttered any sound whatever, although it was evident that she both saw and heard. Her weight never exceeded twenty pounds.

Caenden, in his *Britannia*, Smith in his *Wonders*, and Kirby in his *Wonderful Museum*, 1820, tell us that in Hoy, one of the Orkney Islands, there was, lying between two hills, a very remarkable stone, called the Dwarf or Dwarfy Stone, which was thirty-six feet long, eighteen feet broad, and nine feet thick.

It was completely hollowed within, having an entrance on one side about two feet high, with a stone of the same dimensions lying near it, which probably was intended for a door. Within, at the south end of it, was the form of a bed and pillow, large enough for two persons, neatly cut out of the stone. At the north end was another bed or couch; and in the middle was a fire-place, with a hole above it for a chimney. The marks of the workman's tool were very evident, and it was generally supposed to have been a hermitage; but there was a legend that a famous giant and his wife once lived in it. Another story told that the stone fell from the moon, and was the home of a fairy and his wife.

On July 9th, 1822, died Captain Benjamin Starkey, a dwarfish man, who in 1818 published his memoirs, he then being an inmate of the Freeman's Hospital, in Newcastle. The captain says he was born of poor and honest parents, natives of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, at the Lying-in Hospital, Brownlow-street, Long Acre, on December the 19th, 1757.

Charles Lamb wrote a paper upon Captain Starkey, who had been an usher at a school in Fetter-lane when Lamb's sister was a scholar there. Lamb himself went to the same academy about a year after Starkey left it. Miss Lamb testified that Starkey had been in his youth a gentle, quiet person, with a peculiar stamp of old-fashionedness in his strikingly ugly, thin, and careworn face. He "appears to have been one of those mild spirits which, not originally defi-

cient in understanding, are crushed by penury into dejection and feebleness. He might have proved a useful adjunct, if not an ornament, to society, if Fortune had taken him into a very little fostering ; but, wanting that, he became a captain — a byword — and lived and died a broken bulrush.” A woodcut of this small man now before us represents him full-length in profile ; and underneath are the following lines :

“ Reader ! see the famous Captain  
Starkey, in his own coat wrapt in ;  
Mark his mark’d nose, and mark his eye,  
His lengthen’d chin, his forehead high,  
His little stick, his humble hat,  
The modest tie of his cravat ;  
Mark how easy sit his hose,  
Mark the shoes that hold his toes ;  
So he look’d when Ranson sketch’d him  
While alive—but Death has fetch’d him.”

In December, 1823, was exhibited at 287 Strand Mrs. Butcher, a Yorkshire married dwarf, “ the smallest lady and the greatest wonder of the present age.”

In the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, under a glass case, is the skeleton of a female child of stunted growth, who for exhibition purposes was called *Mdlle. Caroline Craehani*, the *Sieilian dwarf*. She died in London in June, 1824, at the age of nine or ten years, and was only nineteen or twenty inches high. Her bones appear to have undergone hardly any change after birth. There seems to have been a complete arrest of development, the epiphyses of the



bones remaining unossified. With the skeleton are preserved casts of the dwarf's arm, hand, and foot, and also her tiny stockings, thimble, and pearl ring. She was the daughter of a musician, and was born at Palermo. On account of her diminutive size, the Duchess of Parma and a few other distinguished persons were allowed to see her; but she was not publicly exhibited until she was brought to England, in the latter end of the summer of 1823; after which she was exhibited at Oxford, Birmingham, and Liverpool, and afterwards in London.

A newspaper of June, 1824, announced her death as follows: "This poor child had been for some time afflicted with a cough, and the untoward changes in the weather during several days of last week had a visible effect on the general state of her health. On Thursday last she was exhibited as usual, and received upwards of 200 visitors; towards the evening a languor appeared to come over her, and on her way from the exhibition room she expired."

Mons. Fogell Crachami, the father of this dwarf, seems to have been improperly deprived of her body, as we gather from the *Times* of June 17th, 1824, wherein it is stated that he had applied to the magistrate at Marlborough-street Office for a warrant to apprehend a person named Gilligan, to whom she had been intrusted, and who had disappeared with her body. He had occupied splendid apartments in the house of Mr. Dorlan, a tailor, in Duke-street, St. James's; but he had gone away, and left behind only

the little state-bed of the child and her habit which Mr. Dorlan had made for her, to be presented in it to the king. Gilligan had offered the body to Mr. Brooks, of Blenheim-steps, for one hundred guineas; but the sale was not completed.

Ultimately, the distracted father visited Sir Everard Home, of Sackville-street, through whose influence the prodigy had been presented to the king, and from whom Craehami ascertained that Gilligan had taken the body to Sir Everard's house, and expressed a wish to dispose of it. The latter refused to purchase it, but said he would present it to the Royal College of Surgeons, and whatever reward they thought proper to vote to him he should receive. Gilligan agreed to these terms, and left the child. The father hearing this, begged to see his daughter, and he was permitted to do so at the college; but she had already been anatomised. He was in a very excited state, and he clasped the corpse in his arms with much emotion. Sir Everard gave him a cheque for ten pounds; and it seems that he then left London for Ireland, where his wife was.

## CHAPTER XV.

Dwarf at Cardiff—Dwarfs at Bartholomew Fair—Lydia Walpole—Little Old Woman of Bagdad—Thomas Day—Musical Dwarf at Drury-lane Theatre—Dwarf at Tiverton—Boardman—Somersetshire Fairy—Tom Crib and Dwarf—Ettrick Shepherd describes Dwarf—Dwarf and Pig-faced Lady—Mexican Dwarf—Miniature John Bull—General Tom Thumb—Haydon, the Painter—Commodore Nutt and Minnie Warren—Dwarfs at Bartholomew Fair—Miss Shaw—Farnham—Dawson—Miss Williams—Don Santos—Dwarf Marriage—Miss Hipkins—Abou Zadek—Infant Dwarf—Dye—John Miller.

IN September, 1825, died at Cardiff Mr. E. Philpott, who was only three feet nine inches high, the circumference of his head being twenty-five inches and three-quarters. By a strange formation of his limbs he was able to kick his own forehead. For many years he officiated as a recruiting sergeant, in regimentals; but for the last four years of his life he was employed as an ale-taster at Cardiff.

Hone, in his *Every-Day Book*, gives us an amusing account of a visit paid by him to Bartholomew Fair on September 5th, 1825. In Show No. 1 he saw a female dwarf, two feet eleven inches high, of whom he gives an engraving. Her name was Lydia Walpole, and she was born at Addiscombe, near Great Yarmouth. She was sociable, agreeable, and intelligent. “The ‘little lady’ had a thorough good character from Miss Hipson as an affectionate creature.” She was again exhibited at Bartholomew

Fair in 1833, in Simmett's show, when she was described as being thirty-one years of age. In 1825 she was exhibited at Norwieh. In Show No. 10 were an Indian woman, a Chinese lady, a dwarf, and other curiosities. Hone says, "A clown outside cried, 'Be assured they're alive. Only one penny each.' The crowd was great, and the shows to be seen were many. I therefore did not go in." In Show No. 11 was a dwarf, who was described by the proprietor as "The little old woman of Bagdad ; she is thirty inches high, twenty-two years of age, and a native of Boston, in Lincolnshire." In Show No. 12 was a Welch dwarf, who was represented to be William Phillips, of Denbigh, fifteen years of age.

In Show No. 13 was another dwarf, of whom Hone gives an engraving, and says: "Afterwards stepped forth a little personage, about three feet high, in a military dress, with top-boots, who strutted his tiny legs, and held his head aloft with not less importance than the proudest general officer could assume upon his promotion to the rank of field-martial."

In Show No. 17 was a dwarf family, who had never been in the fair before. "Mr. Thomas Day was the reputed father of the dwarf family, and exhibited himself as small enough for a great wonder ; as he was. He was also proprietor of the show ; and said he was thirty-five years of age, and only thirty-five inches high. He fittingly deseanted on the living personages in whom he had a vested interest. There was a boy six years old, only twenty-seven

inches high." In Show No. 20 were two dwarfs, who were, as Hone says, "dwarfish."

A girl was exhibited at Bartholomew Fair "not much above eighteen inches long, having never a perfect bone in any part of her, only the head; yet she hath all her senses to admiration, and discourses, reads well, sings, whistles, and all very pleasant to hear."

The *Thespian Sentinel* of November 23d, 1825, tells the following story of a dwarf singer: "Drury-lane Theatre is about to have an extraordinary musical acquisition, in the person of a young man of very diminutive size. The history of his engagement is rather singular. Mr. Birch, an eminent coachmaker, some days ago gave a dinner to his very numerous establishment in his workshops, and he invited Mr. Dunn, of Drury-lane Theatre, and Mr. Smith the bass singer, and some other gentlemen, to be of the party. Nearly one hundred sat down to dinner; and after some of the usual glees and songs were sung, suddenly a voice of surpassing sweetness was heard in the room, but from whence it issued was not discoverable. The company stared at each other in astonishment. Everyone declared that he never heard such tones, except from the throat of Catalani. The applause at the conclusion of the song was such as might be expected; and after everyone had expressed his admiration, there arose a discussion about the sex of the melodist. The almost universal opinion was that such tones could



come from nobody but a woman. George Smith was of a different opinion. He said he believed the voice to be that of a young man; and soon afterwards the body of a coach, which lay at the upper end of the workshop, was opened, and out stepped a male dwarf, about two- or three-and-twenty years of age. The qualifications of this little person were at once made known to the managers of Drury-lane Theatre, who immediately, upon the recommendation of the professional men who heard him sing, engaged him. His voice is, we understand, in all the upper tones, precisely like Catalani's; and in the lower, it bears a close resemblance to Mrs. Bland's. Mr. Birch had accidentally heard him joining in a glee with two other poor ragged creatures in the street, and humanely determined to give him a chance of bettering his condition. It is intended, we believe, that he shall sing without an accompaniment on the first night of his appearance."

About this period a dwarf was employed at one of the hotels in Tiverton as Boots. The boots which he cleaned were half his height; consequently he had to drag them along the ground. His portrait was well drawn by a shoemaker who had abandoned the trade of St. Crispin for the art of Titian, and who was no mean painter.

Some time in or after the year 1826 a showman named H. Lee carried about England for exhibition several living wonders, among which was "Mr. J. Boardman, a native of Bolton-le-Moors. He is un-

doubtedly the smallest man ever yet exhibited in England, being thirty-four years of age, and measuring in height only thirty-eight inches. This gentleman was certainly formed in one of nature's most playful moods; in short, he is the most striking instance of the unerring wisdom of the Supreme Power, to whom all nature bends. His uncommon vivacity and perfect symmetry of form renders him a most pleasing production of nature. At the same time will be exhibited Miss Widdieombe, of Tannton, the Somersetshire Fairy. The extraordinary muscular powers of this diminutive female, who in stature is considerably below any of her competitors, needs only to be seen, to be proclaimed the most impressive female dwarf phenomenon ever presented to the public. Amongst the surprising exertions of this wonderful female is the power she possesses of placing the joints of her fingers backwards to reach the elbow, presenting at the same time a most interesting figure, her stature being only thirty-five inches. She is forty-five years of age, and possesses an expression unlike any of her predecessors or present rivals." We quote from a handbill that was intended to be used at any fair to which the travelling showman might take his prodigies, which were, as the bill tells us, patronised by the royal family at Ascot, on June 10th, 1819.

Tom Crib had a protégé named Morgan, who was a dwarf. Tom picked him up out of some street brawl, and carried him off triumphantly in his arms to Bow-street, where he told the magistrate he did

not like to see little ones imposed upon. Tom took the mannikin home, and kept him as a waiter at his house in Panton-street, Haymarket, where the little man wore top-boots and a broad-brim hat. Mr. Anquetil tells us that he saw him and another dwarf, of very dissimilar shape, have a fistic encounter at a sporting benefit in St. John-street, about 1827.

The Ettrick Shepherd, in *Blackwood's Magazine* for March, 1827 ("Noctes Ambrosianæ"), thus refers to a dwarf exhibited in a caravan: "The wee dwarfie woman, no three feet high, wi' a husband sax feet four; I never saw a happier couple. She loup't intil the pouch o' his shooting-jacket, and keekit out like a maukin. But oh! she had a great ugly wide mouth, and her teeth were as sharp and yellow as prins. I wudna hae sleepit in the same bed wi' sie a vermin for the mines o' Peru, for gin she had fa'n upon a body in the middle o' the nicht, and fasten'd on their throat like a rotten, there wad hae been nae shakin' her aff—the vampire. She was in the family way."

A newspaper of February, 1829, gives the following account of an unfortunate dwarf, and of his mésalliance with a pig-faced lady: "On Tuesday morning, at Union Hall, much amusement was afforded in the office, owing to the attendance of a dwarf, who had walked through the streets from the caravan where he was exhibiting to Union Hall, followed by an immense multitude, attracted by his diminutive and singular appearance. The

little man, stepping up to the bar, to the top of which his head did not reach, addressed the magistrate, saying that the object of his visit was for the purpose of applying for a warrant or summons against a man named Stephenson, who engaged him to travel about in a van, and exhibit himself to the public. The dwarf said that his name was Lipson, and proceeded to describe the fatigue and drudgery attendant on the life of a man placed in his situation, which, he declared, was anything but an enviable one. His wages were small, being only three shillings a week; and for that trifling remuneration for his services, he was obliged to be constantly confined in a small vehicle, with a man and his wife, and a large family of squalling children; and, when it rained, the water poured through the chinks of the crazy old caravan and almost drowned him, together with the rest of the inmates. But this was not all the inconvenience that he was obliged to submit to in the service of Stephenson, who obliged him to sit cheek-by-jowl with a pig-faced lady, which he (the dwarf) considered to be a very great degradation, the pig-faced lady being neither better or worse than a shaved bear; and Mr. Bruin sometimes took it into his head to play off some very rough and uncouth tricks. For instance, when he was seized with a hungry fit, he would not care what uproar he kicked up in the van, and often directed his fury against the poor dwarf on these occasions, who has been frequently

under the necessity of jumping out of the vehicle, to the danger and hazard of breaking his neck, to escape the fury of her pig-faced ladyship. ‘With all these little misfortunes, however,’ said the dwarf, ‘I would willingly put up, if I was paid my wages regularly; but no, this has not been the case, and my master is now three weeks in my debt; and when I ask him for my money, he refuses it, and taunts me with not drawing the public. When drawing a contrast between the services of the pig-faced lady and myself, master always gives the preference to the former, and it is rather cutting that more attention should be paid to a *hanimal* than a human cretur.’ The magistrate told the dwarf that he must apply to the Court of Requests, and he left the office, followed by a mob.”

A correspondent of *Le Globe*, a Paris journal, for December, 1829, gives the following account of Francisca, a Mexican dwarf: “I saw in Paris a Mexican dwarf, who, at seventeen years of age, was only twenty-seven inches and a half high. She was born of an Indian mother of a pure race, in the province of Zocateces, on the estate of Donna Josefa Z——o; and came to France in the suite of that lady, towards whom she discharged all the functions of a fille-de-chambre. She laced her, dressed her hair, took care of her linen, and, moreover, executed with great skill every kind of embroidery. In the course of a few months, listening to the servants of the hotel, she learned French enough to understand



what was said, to ask for what she wanted, and even to talk, which also seemed necessary to her. She had great volubility in conversation; and several of her pleasant sallies were repeated to me. Nevertheless, her capacity did not appear to me to be above that of a child of eight years old. Her head was of the same size as that of a child of eight years old whom I saw near her. Her features had nothing in them disagreeable; but were strongly marked with the American character. Her hands and arms were very well formed, as were also her feet and legs. Her hips were rather large, which made her see-saw in walking, but did not prevent her from running with rapidity. They wished to teach the little Francisca to read; but, as that occupation did not please her, she soon found the means of getting rid of it, by complaining of head-ache or tooth-ache whenever she saw the book preparing."

We have now before us an engraving representing the dwarf Richard Garnsey, a smart little fellow, in a court suit and wig, standing in a room between a pianoforte and a chair. The picture is subscribed as follows: "The Miniature John Bull, Richard Garnsey, born January 4th, 1831, at Kittisford, near Taunton, has not grown since he was four years old, and is pronounced by Sir James Clark, M.D., Dr. Loeck, Dr. Ferguson, and Dr. Dalrymple, to be the most symmetrical dwarf in the world."

Charles S. Stratton, better known as General

Tom Thumb (to which name "junior" was added when he first assumed it), or "the American Man in Miniature," is said to have been born at Bridgeport, Connecticut, in America, on January 11th, 1832. At his birth he weighed nine pounds two ounces, somewhat more than the average weight of a new-born infant. At about five months old he weighed fifteen pounds, and measured twenty-five inches in height; since which time, up to 1845, he did not increase in stature, nor in weight, except by about two ounces. The General first exhibited at Barnum's old American Museum, in New York, where he is stated to have been visited by thirty thousand persons. Gentlemen of distinction invited him to dine with them; ladies came in their carriages to see him, bringing with them valuable presents; and he was for six weeks the lion of New York. He next visited Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and Charleston, and in fact made the tour of the United States, where he and his miniature furniture and equipage excited considerable curiosity.

In January, 1844, he left New York for England, and was escorted to the ship *Yorkshire*, in which he sailed, by at least ten thousand persons. Immediately on his arrival in London he called at the office of the *Illustrated London News*, in the Strand; and the first portrait of him taken in this country appears in that journal for February 24th, 1844, in which he is represented standing upon a chair, and also upon the stage of the Princess's Theatre, in the character

of Napoleon. He first appeared at this theatre on February 21st, where he strutted about in a character dress, as a miniature Buonaparte, and afterwards portrayed the Grecian statues, and enacted various other drolleries, which altogether had a most ludicrous effect. To him might have been applied the words of Damasippus to Horace :

“ Scarcely of two foot height,  
Mimic the mighty stature of the great ;  
While you, forsooth, a dwarf in arms, deride,  
His haughty spirit and giantic stride.”

The General's head scarcely reached to the knees of a person of ordinary stature, and was about on a level with the seat of a common chair. He had light hair and complexion, a fresh colour, dark eyes, well-developed forehead, good mouth, great vivacity of expression, and a childish treble voice. He was generally cheerful.

On March 23d, 1844, the General, accompanied by Barnum, his guardian, visited the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent, at Buckingham Palace, where he went through his performances. On April 2d following he repeated them before her Majesty, when also were present the Queen of the Belgians, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice. At the conclusion of the entertainment her Majesty presented to the General a souvenir of mother-of-pearl, set with rubies, and bearing the crown and the initials V. R. In addition, the Queen subsequently presented the General with

a gold pencil-case. On April 16th he appeared for the second time before Queen Adelaide, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Gloucester, at Marlborough House. Her Majesty presented the General with a watch and chain. He appeared before the Queen, Prince Albert, the King and Queen of the Belgians, and Prince Leiningen, at Buckingham Palace, for the third time, on April 19th, dressed in a full court suit. On these several occasions he sang a comic song, introducing therein the royal personages, to the air of "Yankee Doodle."

In August, 1844, "this little, great, small man" had built for him by a London carriage-maker an elegant dress chariot suitable to his dimensions. The body of it was twenty inches high, and eleven inches wide. It was completely furnished in the richest style. The colour of the body was of an intense blue, picked out with white, and the wheels were blue and red. Upon the door-panels were emblazoned the General's arms, Britannia and the Goddess of Liberty, supported by the British lion and American eagle; the crest being the rising sun and the British and American flags; and the motto, "Go ahead!" The crest was also repeated on the body and throughout the harness. The box was furnished with a crimson hammer-cloth, with a silver star and red and green flowers. The carriage was drawn by a pair of Shetland ponies; and two lads were engaged as coachman and footman. They wore liveries of sky-blue coats, trimmed with silver lace, and with aiguillettes tipped

with silver; red breeches, with silver garters and buckles; plated buttons; cocked hats and wigs; and the footman was provided with a cane. The whole equipage cost between 300*l.* and 400*l.* It is engraved in the *Illustrated London News* for August 31st, 1844.

In February, 1845, the General visited Paris with his little carriage, and he paid repeated visits to the Tuileries, where he received many costly presents from King Louis Philippe, his queen, Princess Adelaide, and the Comte de Paris. For four successive months the General entertained the public at the Salle des Concerts, in the Rue Vivienne; and after his evening levees he appeared at the Vaudeville Theatre, in Paris, for seventy nights, in a fairy play called *Le Petit Poucet*, written expressly for him. He afterwards made the tour of France and Belgium; and, leaving Bordeaux for Spain, appeared before Queen Isabella, the queen-mother, and the court, then at Pampeluna. At a great bull-fight there he attended in the royal box with the queen. While travelling between the towns of Quimper and L'Orient, his luggage was stolen from the back of his carriage; and this occurrence gave rise to a story current in France, that he had been seized by brigands. In November he returned to Paris, and again appeared before the king and queen at the palace of St. Cloud, and received gifts from them.

In December he for the second time visited England, and gave his entertainment at the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly, where he drew crowds to witness



his performances of the Grecian statues ; Cupid with wings and quiver ; Sampson carrying off the gates of Gaza ; the fighting gladiator ; the slave whetting his knife ; Ajax ; Discobulus ; Cincinnatus ; Hercules, with the Nemæan lion ; Napoleon ; and Frederick the Great.

The *Book of Days* says that Haydon, the historical painter, was in effect killed by Tom Thumb. After a reference to Haydon's sad and troubled life, and to his struggles in his profession, we read : " Such was the mental condition of the unhappy painter in the early part of the year 1846, when the so-called General Tom Thumb came to England. Haydon had then just finished a large picture on which he had long been engaged, 'The Banishment of Aristides.' He hoped to redeem his fallen fortunes, and to relieve himself of some of his debts, by exhibiting the picture. He engaged a room at the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly, under the roof where the dwarf was attracting his crowds ; and sent hundreds of invitations to distinguished persons and critics to attend a private view. An entry in his diary on April 4th was 'the beginning of the end,' showing how acutely the poor man felt his comparative want of success : 'Opened—rained hard ; only Jerrold, Baring, Fox Maule, and Hobhouse came. Rain would not have kept them away twenty-six years ago. Comparison—first day of "Christ entering Jerusalem," 1820, 19*l.* 16*s.* First day of "Banishment of Aristides," 1846, 1*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* I trust in God, amen !' Soon

afterwards he wrote, ‘ They rush by thousands to see Tom Thumb. They push, they fight, they scream, they faint, they cry “ Help !” and “ Murder !” They see my bills and earavan, but do not read them ; their eyes are on them, but their sense is gone. It is an insanity, a *rabies furor*, a dream, of which I would not have believed England could have been guilty.’ . . . . About a fortnight after the opening of his exhibition he recorded in his diary, with few but bitter words, the fact that in one week 12,000 persons had paid to see Tom Thumb, while only 133½, the fraction being doubtless a child at half-price, paid to see ‘ Aristides.’ ” One morning in the following June Haydon was found in his painting-room dead, with a pistol and razor near him, with which weapons he had ended his earthly troubles.

In March, 1846, the General appeared at the Lyceum Theatre, and in May, at the City of London Theatre, as ‘ Hop o’ My Thumb,’ the hero of a tale familiar to all the lovers of nursery literature, and popular, under different versions, with the children of several countries. In this fairy play the General achieved a great success ; for he displayed much stage tact and comic humour, and his appearance, pantomime, and general performance were irresistibly ludicrous.

Subsequently, after visiting the provinces of England and Ireland and Scotland, Tom Thumb returned to America. A London newspaper of September 18th, 1847, says : “ Tom Thumb’s secretary has fur-

nished one of the American papers with a statement of his receipts in Europe, which are said to have amounted to 150,000*l.* sterling." The General again visited England, and then went back to his native country, where he married a dwarf. In November, 1864, he came to England with his wife, and two other dwarfs, named Commodore Nutt and Minnie Warren, which quartette much delighted English sightseers. In February, 1865, the General exhibited himself at St. James's Hall. In October, in the same year, the income-tax commissioners of Southampton served him with an assessment notice, in which they estimated his annual receipts at between ten and twenty thousand pounds. The General's marriage is said to have resulted in the birth of a child, called Minnie Tom Thumb, who died from inflammation of the brain, at the Norfolk Hotel, Norwich, in September, 1866, while her parents were on a professional tour in the eastern counties.

At Bartholomew Fair, in 1832, were exhibited in a show "those celebrated dwarfs, Miss Shaw and her brother," who were born at Huddersfield, in Yorkshire. In another show appeared, with a giant, Mr. Farnham, "the surprising Somersetshire dwarf," who was said to be only thirty-eight inches high; but who in truth stood nearly five feet, and was therefore too tall to be correctly called a dwarf. He was a well-made little man, and very strong, for he could carry two lusty men on his shoulders with ease. This Mr. Farnham was exhibited in Broomsgrove's "Col-

lection of Nature's Wonderful Works," at Bartholomew Fair, in 1833, when he was described as being twenty-three years of age, and able to carry four hundredweight with ease.

In 1833 was exhibited at Bartholomew Fair, in Dupain's French Theatre, Jonathan Dawson, a dwarf, thirty-six inches and three-quarters high, who was born at Richmond, in Yorkshire, on January 27th, 1783. In Harris's show, at the same fair, was exhibited Eliza Webber, a dwarf, twelve years old.

In 1834 was exhibited at this fair Miss Williams, the Welch dwarf, born at Merthyr Tydvil, and aged thirty-two years, on August 12th in that year. Also Miss Rees, the Welch fairy, who was twenty-two years of age, and thirty inches high. Also a little man who was called a dwarf; but, being thirty-six inches high, he was shown more for the symmetry of his person than for his height; he had a remarkably good figure, and danced the Highland fling extremely well.

About July, 1834, a dwarf named Don Santiago de Los Santos, during his exhibitory travels in England, was married to another dwarf, a Miss Hipkins, at Birmingham. The don was forty-eight years of age, and about twenty-six inches high; and Miss Hipkins was twenty-eight years of age, and about forty inches high. The couple were carried to the church in a sedan-chair, and the High Bailiff of Birmingham gave away the bride. In Mr. Fillinham's collection was a sketch of Los Santos, made from life. We have now before us an

engraving, probably an exhibition placard, subscribed as follows: "Miss Angelina Melius, the celebrated giantess, from the United States, nineteen years of age, and nearly seven feet high, attended by her page, Señor Don Santiago de Los Santos, from the Island of Manilla, thirty-five years of age, and two feet two inches high."

It represents the couple in most absurd and unjust proportions, the dwarf entire being only a little longer than the face of the giantess. The former is holding up the train of the latter, who is much bedecked with jewelry and fine clothes. The dwarf wears a kind of tunie, with a waist-belt, two pouches, a sword, striped trousers, and a large turn-down collar; in one hand he carries his feathered hat.

Sir Grenville Temple, in his *Excursions in the Mediterranean*, about 1835, says: "A most extraordinary personage presented himself to us; he was a dwarf, by name Aboo Zadek, and somewhat under three feet. It must not, however, be imagined that his short stature was owing to the want of years; for his age was forty-five, and he had a very fine family, consisting of four boys and two girls, and his wife; and, mark you, his fourth wife, who was said to be extremely pretty. Sidi Mustapha, during one of his visits to the Jereed, saw him, and was so pleased that he carried him off to Tunis, where, dressed in magnificent apparel, he formed the delight and amusement of the court. He was sometimes shut up in one of the boxes in which the sweetmeats are brought



from Constantinople ; and when any visitors arrived the bey's brother used to tell them he had just received a present of sugar-plums, and begged them to open the box and take some of them ; when out jumps Aboo Zadek, to their great terror, and repeated exclamations of ' Wallah ! Wallah ! Allah Akbar ! ' ”

• An Edinburgh journal for August, 1838, says : “ An infant dwarf. Considerable curiosity has been excited in the neighbourhood of Stenhousemuir for the last fortnight, by the birth of an extremely diminutive child. It is a girl, and was born at the full time, though measuring only seven inches, and weighing two pounds. The face of this fairy-like child is no larger than a watch-dial ; but we are happy to add that, with the mother, it is doing well.”

Mr. John Bullock, of Sevenoaks, tells us that an old acquaintance of his, now deceased, whose name was Dye, had a son of very diminutive stature ; in fact, he was shorter than some of the exhibited dwarfs ; but his faculties were so well developed that he filled the office of book-keeper to Hannen, a wine-merchant, in Northumberland-street, Strand. Dye was on several occasions, when walking in the streets with his son, accosted by strangers, who offered to hire the latter for a term of years, for the purpose of exhibiting him—a proposal which gave the parent much annoyance, and was indignantly rejected.

On January 14th, 1838, died at Paisley John Miller, a native of that place, who was only three feet in height. His knee-joints did not play, and

the motion of his legs was produced by the hip-joints alone. Instead of arms he had merely two stumps, one of which was only a few inches long, the other being rather longer, but less than half the length of an ordinary person's arm. His longer stump terminated in something that had a slight resemblance to a finger and thumb, which enabled him to hold a pen. When he first learned to write, he did so with his foot, with which also he performed many useful actions. On becoming a teacher, which he did about twenty years before his death, he wrote with his stump before alluded to. In ruling his copy-books, he held the pencil in his teeth, and moved the roller with his stump with great accuracy and expedition. When he was young, application was made by a showman to get him as an object for exhibition; but he resented this, armed himself with a poker, and dared the showman to touch him. On one occasion a female, with a malformation similar to his own, was exhibited in his town; he expressed a wish to see her, and was taken to the spot for that purpose; but on seeing her picture on the canvas outside, he could not be prevailed on to go further. He paid great attention to teaching, and at one time had about one hundred and twenty scholars. Latterly, however, he had only thirty or forty, and as they were of the poorer classes, his income was very scanty. He was of a good disposition, and most independent in his spirit. He would not submit to receive parochial relief; but by means of his school

supported his mother until her death a few years before his own, and himself afterwards. The falling off of his school, and the fear of abject poverty, were believed to have hastened his death. He was taken ill one Saturday, and died on the following Monday.

## CHAPTER XVI.

George Trout—sells his body—Indian Dwarf—Little Unknown—Dwarf at Olympic Theatre—What is it?—Highland Dwarfs—Don Francisco Hidalgo—Marquis of Lilliput—the Cluricaunc—Jan Hannema—Dwarf Giantess—Fairy Queen—Black French Dwarf—The Aztecs—Edwin Calvert—Garibaldi and Dwarf—Lilliputian King—Chung Mow—Che Ma Che Sang—Dwarf at Milan—Dwarf Marriage—Dwarf Traveller—Colonel Chaffin—Dwarf Preacher—Eccentric Dwarf in Paris—Dwarf Husband—Stories about short people—Dwarfs' Money—Sundry Dwarfs.

A LITHOGRAPH now before us represents George Trout, the dwarf messenger of the Houses of Parliament, full length, in a dress coat and hat, with a roll of papers under his arm, endorsed "Parliamentary Report for 1839." He was a well-known character for many years in Westminster Hall, where he was familiarly known as "the dwarf." He was not a yard high, and had extremely short arms and legs, but a most enormous and unnatural-looking head. His singular appearance attracted the attention of many members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, and he was often sent by them with messages to different parts of the town; upon which occasions he was exceedingly important in his small way, and used to talk of the despatches which he carried.

He was "in word a giant, though a dwarf in deed." He was a great favourite of Sir Thomas

Thyrwitt, the usher of the black rod, who presented him with several suits of clothes, so that he might appear respectable in the lobby of the House; but Trout invariably disposed of them, because he obtained more money in a shabby dress at the doors; and at last he was forbidden access to the lobby.

A story goes that Trout was once an out-patient of the Westminster Hospital, where Anthony White, who was not much less singular in his ways than the dwarf, was at that time the principal and eminent surgeon. One day he said to old Trout, in a joking manner, that he would not mind giving 10*l.* for his body when he was dead. The dwarf said he should have it; but he shrewdly bargained that he should have the price first, so that he might enjoy it in his lifetime. He therefore used to call on White when in little difficulties, and obtain from him five or ten shillings at a time, as it were for parts of his body in advance. He soon received the 10*l.* in this way; but White died before Trout. At seventy-six years of age, infirmity and poverty came upon him, and he went to St. Margaret's Workhouse in July, 1850. He died from decay of nature in the infirmary-ward of that establishment, a few days before December 27th, 1851.

In 1839 was born at Benares an Indian dwarf, named Mahommed Baux. His parents and his brothers and sisters were all rather above the middle height, and he when born was not a small child; but he did not increase in size as other children did,



although his mental qualities were rather above than below the ordinary standard. His father was employed as a sepoy in the East India Company's service, and continued so until he was discharged as being unfit for duty. For many years Mahommed was the pet of the districts about Calcutta, often being invited by the most distinguished natives and British residents to their houses, where he was always a welcome visitor, on account of his amiable conduct and pleasing manners. At the commencement of the outbreak in India, his brother took him up the country, visiting various stations.

For a short time he was in the Lord Sahib's camp, but a sudden movement of the camp left him in the rear. At Cawnpore, he witnessed the dreadful massacres of the ladies and children which there took place, and was only himself saved, to use his own words, "because he was a dwarf, and never did any harm, and could fight nobody." He returned to Calcutta at the latter end of 1859, and becoming intimate with a Mr. Francis, he accompanied him to England, where he arrived by the Nile at the end of March, 1860. Mahommed Baux was then about thirty-seven inches high, had very easy, unembarrassed manners, was able to converse in English, and was remarkable for his gentlemanly deportment. He was exhibited as a novelty at Cremorne Gardens, and also at the bar of the Sir John Falstaff tavern, in Brydges-street, Strand. His full-length portrait is given in the *Illustrated London News* for May 12th,

1860, and in the *London Journal* for June 2d, in the same year.

About 1840 lived a man of dwarfish stature, yellow countenance, and uncouth figure, called the "Little Unknown," who nearly every day walked in St. James's Park, where he attracted much attention in consequence of his eccentric appearance.

On March 16th, 1843, a dwarf, named Signor Hervio Nano, appeared on the stage of the Olympic Theatre, with Freeman, the American giant, in a piece written for them, and entitled *The Son of the Desert and the Demon Changeling*. At the conclusion of the performance, the dwarf, who displayed much histrionic ability, led the giant before the curtain to receive the applause of the audience.\* A portrait of the former has been engraved.

A writer in the *Illustrated London News* for December 29th, 1866, says: "Some twenty years ago a poor and marvellously deformed dwarf, who acted a fly in pantomime, crawled on the ceiling, or leapt from scene to scene as a monkey, exhibited himself as an unclassified animal. . . . This animal, the 'What is it?' exhibited the same natural distress when too closely examined, and yapped and barked admirably, to the great terror of the ladies. Those people who saw through the dodge, but had a kindly humour in them, were not altogether glad when a blundering friend recognised the accomplished actor in his den, and covered him with confusion by insist-

\* Vide page 223.

ing on shaking hands and giving him the Freemason's grip; the consequence of which was that poor Harvey Leach died of something like starvation." We believe the "What is it?" or the Wild Man of the Woods, was exhibited at the Egyptian Hall, and that the deception was very soon discovered.

In 1846 three Highland dwarfs were publicly exhibited at the Cosmorama Rooms, in Regent-street, London. They were named Mackinlay, and were born at Lochcarron, in the county of Ross. Their father was a herd upon the hills in the district. The eldest dwarf, Finlay, was twenty-three years old, forty-five inches high, and weighed five stone eleven pounds. John, the other male dwarf, was twenty-one years old, forty-four inches high, and five stone three pounds in weight. Mary, their sister, was nineteen years of age, forty-four inches in height, and weighed five stone ten pounds. The lads in their native country were employed in herding and in collecting eggs on the hills; and the girl was occupied with knitting and sewing. On May 21st, 1846, these dwarfs, accompanied by Mr. Mackenzie, performed their national dances and sang at Buckingham Palace before the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent. They wore the full dress of the clan of Ross, a tartan of dark green and white and red narrow stripes; and the male dwarfs carried broadswords and steel targets. The full-length portraits of the three are engraved in the *Illustrated London News* for May 30th, 1846.

The Cosmorama Rooms were also favoured with the visit of another dwarf, as appears from a comparatively recent hand-bill and exhibition placard now before us. The former runs as follows: "Now open! Don Francisco Hidalgo, the greatest curiosity of the age, has arrived in London from Madrid. He holds his levees at the Cosmorama Rooms, 209 Regent-street. The Don is, without doubt, the most extraordinary specimen of the human race in the world. History does not mention one so small, being only 3 spans and a half, or 29 inches high, 42 years old, well-formed, beautiful and intellectual countenance, speaks three languages. The attention of the public has lately been drawn to the exhibition of 'small children;' to those who were astonished at those exhibitions, what must be their feelings on seeing a perfect man, of mind, intellect, and beauty, and smaller than them all; and those who were dissatisfied, have now an opportunity of being gratified with the sight of this little personage. Wonder and astonishment is depicted on the countenances of his visitors. He stands alone unrivalled; there is nothing at present in the world that can approach him as a curiosity of nature. For 18 years he was attached to the court of Madrid, in the reign of Ferdinand the 7th; for 12 years he has been living in retirement near Madrid. The report of the exhibition of a small child exciting the curiosity of the world, has been the occasion of the Don once more coming before the public. He will be found a correct

representation of the Cluricaune, as mentioned in Crofton Croker's *Legends of Ireland*. Hours of exhibition—Day, from 12 to 4 o'clock. Evening, from 6 to 9 o'clock. Admittance 1s., children and servants half-price. Reader! the Don is exactly four times the length of the bill you are reading. A splendid print of the Don, third the size of life, for sale at the rooms." The handbill is seven inches and a quarter in length.

The exhibition bill is worded as follows: "Now exhibiting, at the Cosmorama Rooms, No. 209 Regent-street, the Marquis of Liliput! Don Francisco Hidalgo—42 years old—29 inches high—the smallest 'Man' ever created!" In the middle is a full-length portrait of the dwarf in a dress-coat, open vest, and white cuffs. He wears a small moustache, and long hair falling in a roll over his ear. In his right hand is a stick, and in the left is a paper inscribed, "One-fourth the size of life." The figure is seven inches and a quarter high.

The Cluricaune, which is mentioned above, was the fairy dwarf or elf of Ireland's folk-lore. He was six inches high, generally mischievous, attached himself to particular families, occupied himself often with shoemaking, and recreated himself with drinking and smoking. Some small tobacco-pipes which have been found in Ireland were believed by the peasantry to have belonged to the Cluricaunes.

In 1848 was exhibited at the Cosmorama Rooms, in Regent-street, a dwarf, named Jan Hannema, and called Admiral Van Tromp, the Friesland phenome-



non. He was a native of Fruneker, in Friesland ; aged not quite ten years ; only twenty-eight inches in height, being less by three inches than General Tom Thumb ; and weighed sixteen pounds. He had not increased either in height or weight since he was nine months old. His complexion was fair and ruddy, his eyes blue, and his hair light. He was exceedingly animated, intelligent, well formed and healthy. He was a capital comedian, and portrayed his illustrious countryman, Admiral Van Tromp, in his dress, flourished his sword bravely, and trod an imaginary quarter-deck firmly. He also represented a Dutch burgomaster, smoking a pipe ; and a wigged-and-gowned barrister. He also marched, danced, sang, fenced, played cards, constructed small articles of furniture, boxes, and other things ; wrote a good bold hand ; and was fond of music. He was in the receipt of a pension granted to him by the King of Holland in consideration of his homœopathic proportions. He was patronised by Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, the Prince and Princess of Parma, the Prince of Orange, and the King and Queen of Holland ; and he was visited in London in 1848 and the following year by thousands of persons. One of his handbills now before us contains his full-length portrait in his Van Tromp costume, with a sword in one hand and a telescope in the other. Another of his handbills says, “ The Admiral is exactly three times and a half

the length of this bill you are reading. Evening parties attended."

About this period, a dwarf giantess was exhibited at Saville House, Leieester-square. She issued the following handbill: "Just arrived from Australia. The Wonderful Dwarf Giantess, Miss Mary Jane Youngman, who is only 15 years of age, and weighs 13 stone 6lbs.; height, 35 inches; round the shoulders she measures 3 feet 6 inches; round the waist, 4 feet 3 inches; round the leg, 2 feet; and round the arm, 1 foot. This wonderful child is now to be seen at Saville House (front room), Leieester-square, from 11 A.M. to 11 P.M. She should be seen by old and young. Such truly magnificent female proportions were never before witnessed in England; or, indeed, in the world. Admission, 6*d*. Children half-price." In the centre is a full-length portrait of an uncommonly fat young female, who is as broad as she is long.

A handbill now before us, which bears the manuscript date, August, 1850, announced "The Fairy Queen, now exhibiting *Market Hill, High-street, Woolwich* [these words written in], acknowledged to be the smallest living child in the world. Two years old, sixteen inches high, and weighs only four pounds. Daughter of W. Gibbs, farmer, of Blean, Canterbury. Has been exhibited at the University College, London, before 500 medical gentlemen; has also had the honor of attending many private parties, &c., at the residences of the nobility, who have

been astonished and delighted with her graceful manners, beauty of form, and lively disposition," &c.

In March, 1851, was exhibited at No. 43 Cranbourne-street, Leicester-square, "The Fairy Queen, the most beautiful, interesting, and diminutive little child ever exhibited to the public; now 13 months old; stands 16 inches high, and weighs only about 5 pounds." Probably she was Miss Gibbs, as mentioned above, only her age seems to have fluctuated. In the following month, she was exhibited at No. 47 Leicester-square, and was then announced to be of the same height and weight. Her feet were two inches in length; she was perfect in every limb and feature, and was pretty and intelligent. When born, she weighed only one pound and a half. The *Illustrated London News*, for May 24th, 1851, contains the portrait of this diminutive child and her mother, who at that time were exhibiting at the corner of Hall-street, Goswell-road, Islington. An engraving of the pair was sold at their places of exhibition for one shilling.

The *Jamaica Standard*, for December 15th, 1852, says: "We visited yesterday the Black French Dwarf, now exhibiting at No. 60 King-street (Kingston). She is indeed a very great curiosity; thirty inches in height, yet of full and mature form. Her head is larger than ordinary, being full twenty inches in circumference, whilst her limbs possess extraordinary strength and agility. She is intelligent, and gives

ready replies to all questions proposed to her. She told us she was eighteen years of age; she was born in the parish of St. John (Jamaica), and her name is Jane McKenzie."

In June, 1853, two children called Aztecs were exhibited in London. They were stated to have been brought to North America, in 1849, by Velasquez, a Spaniard, who carried them off, at the hazard of his life, from the mysterious and almost unknown city of Iximaya, in central South America, where this Lilliputian race had been for many centuries worshipped by the inhabitants as sacred objects. It is said that the Aztecs were the most powerful of the early Mexican tribes, and that they, with others, originally came from some distant unknown region in the north-west, bringing with them the civilised arts of the country whence they came; and after wandering many years as nomadic tribes, they at length commenced, about the thirteenth century, to build the Mexican cities.

Early in the present century, a Spanish priest of Central America told a tale about a walled city named Iximaya, into which no European had ever entered; or, having entered, never again returned. This city, he stated, contained the living remnant of the lost Aztecs, who lived in total seclusion from all the rest of the world, and so greatly feared being discovered, that they kept their cocks in underground pits, lest their crowing might be heard. Incited by this account, Velasquez, Huertis, and Hammond, in the

year 1848, are said to have penetrated the wonderful city, whence the former brought away two mysterious children, male and female, brother and sister, whom they found squatted on an altar as idols, and who were members of a sacred race, regarded as objects of adoration by the inhabitants, and allowed to marry only among themselves,—hence their physical degeneration and diminutive forms.

These children were, in 1849, exhibited in New York as great ethnological curiosities; and were the guests of President Fillmore, at the White House, Washington. In 1853 they were brought to England, where they appeared before the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and other members of the royal family, at Buckingham Palace; and received from them several valuable presents. The guardians of these Aztec children exhibited them at the Hanover-square Rooms, the Adelaide Gallery, and many other places in London and the provinces. Subsequently they appeared before the Emperor Napoleon and his family at the Tuileries, in Paris; the late Emperor of Russia and his family; the Kings and Queens of Prussia, Bavaria, Holland, Hanover, and Denmark; the Emperor of Austria and his family; the King of the Belgians; Count de Flandres; the Duchess of Brabant; and other illustrious personages.

They became a great problem to men of science in England, and much has been said and written about them; but the most learned physiologists have



decided that the story brought to this country with them is a fiction ; and that they were not Aztecs at all, but mere children of arrested growth, well-proportioned dwarfs, rendered additionally curious by a peculiar form of idioty. Professor Owen on examining them pronounced that they were merely exceptional dwarf specimens of some race—probably South Americans—of the usual stature, with a mixture of European blood ; and Dr. Conolly, formerly of Hanwell, asserted that they were examples of a peculiar kind of cretinism, not attended with goîtres. Another physiologist thought that they were the children of an African negress by a Portuguese idiot. Models were made of them for the ethnological department of the Crystal Palace ; but discussion proving that they were not typical or representative of a race, and were mere exceptional phenomena, these models were never used.

It has been said that these children belong to a hybrid race called Sambos, that is, a cross between American Indians and negroes. Dr. Carl Scherzer, in his *Travels in the Free States of Central America*, about 1857, says that they are nothing more than two remarkably undeveloped individuals of this mixed kind, and that they are the twin children of Innocente Burgos and Martina Espina, his wife, then living in the village of Decora, in the province of San Miguel, St. Salvador. Their mother is said to have been living in 1864. They were dwarfish and idiotic at their birth. A Spanish trader, named

Ramon Selva, seeing them, proposed to their mother to take them to the United States, in order to get them cured of their imbecility. Having thus got possession of them, he sold them to an American, named Morris, who brought them to Europe, and made a show of them.

When they first came to England they knew no language, although with much difficulty they had been taught to pronounce a few words of English. They were very diminutive and doll-like in stature; their appearance was very fantastic and original; and their manners were strangely novel. They were active and elfin-like in their gambols. Their small heads looked smaller for the mass of frizzly black hair which enveloped them. Their heads and faces differed curiously from those of stunted persons in common. The facial angle was about equal to that of a hawk. They had a fair allowance of cerebellum, but as little cerebrum as would hold the smallest portion of intelligent brain. Hence their almost total want of memory, the absence of ideas, and the incapacity for applying or even learning to articulate words. The female was in this respect rather superior to the male; as, indeed, she was in physical development. The joints of all her fingers were dactyllic, although a little inclined to run two into one, the sign of a low organisation; but this sign was absolute in the little fingers of the male, which were simple spondees, or one-jointed members.

The first story of these children being brother and

sister has recently been ignored, and on January 7th, 1867, they were married to each other at a registrar's office in London, under the names of Senor Maximo Valdez Nunez and Senora Bartola Velasquez. Their wedding-breakfast was given in Willis's Rooms, at which a large party sat down. No cost was spared in the marriage and its adjuncts, the lady's outfit having cost, it is said, 2,000*l*. The bridegroom wore evening dress, with a white waistcoat, a red camellia in his button-hole, and a strip of crimson ribbon, denoting his claim to a foreign order. He had a stooping, jerky gait; and so had his bride, although not in so noticeable a degree. She wore a white satin dress, cut low, and liberally adorned with brilliants, a wreath of orange-blossoms, and a lace veil, which caused her a great deal of trouble.

Maximo and Bartola have now, it is presumed, grown to their full stature, which is that of childhood. They are still slim of figure, but not so attenuated as they were when they first appeared in public. Indeed the lady's form presents the appearance of mature womanhood. Her age is said to be twenty-three, and that of her husband thirty-six. Mr. Morris, who is still their guardian, has given a series of entertainments with them in London, prior to their intended departure for Italy.

About October, 1858, a dwarf named Richebourg, who was only sixty centimetres, or twenty-three inches and a half, high, died in the Rue du Four, St. Germain, Paris, at the age of ninety years. He was

when young in the service of the Duehess of Orleans, mother of King Louis Philippe, with the title of butler ; but he performed none of the duties of the office. After the first revolution broke out he was employed to convey despatches abroad, and for that purpose he was dressed as a baby, the despatches being concealed in his cap, and a nurse being made to carry him. During the last twenty-five years of his life he lived in the Rue du Four, and all that time never went out. He had a great repugnance to strangers, and was alarmed when he heard the voice of one ; but in his own family he was very lively, and cheerful in his conversation. The Orleans family allowed him a pension of three thousand francs.

In 1859 Edwin Calvert, a dwarf of some celebrity at Skipton, died from the effects of drink. He was seventeen years of age, thirty-six inches in height, and weighed only twenty-three pounds and a half. He was a sharp, quick, and intelligent youth, and used to visit the most aristocratic families in the neighbourhood. He was a clever performer on the violin ; he could dance some of the most fashionable ancient and modern dances ; and he was a great mimic of birds and other animals. Arrangements were being made for him to be presented to the Queen ; a court dress was being made ; and in less than a month he was going to London and then on the Continent for exhibition. A few months before his death, General Tom Thumb passed through Skipton, and he sent for Calvert. Tom Thumb took off

his own boots, and the other got into them ; he could easily throw them off, as they were too large for him.

“ Immortal hero ! all thy foes o’ercome,  
For ever reign—the rival of Tom Thumb ! ”

When Garibaldi was in Sicily a dwarfish deformed little man presented himself as a volunteer ; but he was refused by the committee. Nothing daunted, he went to Garibaldi, and begged the General to accept him. He again was refused. After one of the first battles the little individual came up to Garibaldi, and joyfully exclaimed, “ See, General, you would not take me, but you could not prevent my coming. I have fought well, indeed I have ; and I am wounded, too.” Garibaldi, who recognised the man, replied, “ Ah, bravo ! and where are you wounded ? ” After some hesitation, the other showed a wound between his shoulders. “ O, fie ! ” said Garibaldi, “ wounded in the back ! I knew you would never be anything good.” The soldier retired quite confused. Another battle soon followed ; and it was scarcely over when the poor fellow again accosted his chief : “ Here I am, General, wounded again, but this time on the right side ; ” and, pointing to a wound in his breast, he fell dead at Garibaldi’s feet.

In February, 1864, was exhibited at Barnum’s Museum in New York, “ The Lilliputian King, fourteen years old, only twenty-two inches high, and weighs but seventeen pounds.”

Early in 1866 Chung Mow, a Tartar dwarf, thirty-three years old, and only thirty-eight inches high,



was exhibited in England, with Chang, the Chinese giant. Chung Mow had a most amusing face and manner, and showed in striking disproportion to his companion.

In 1866 was exhibited in London "The Greatest Living Wonder of the Age, Che Mah Che Sang, the most diminutive man in Europe, 32 inches high, 25 years old, and weighing 40 lbs. The most interesting artificial Dwarf in existence."

Sala, writing on July 11th, 1866, from Milan to the *Daily Telegraph*, about the discomforts to which newspaper correspondents were subjected, says: "The correspondent of one of your contemporaries, after going without food or shelter for thirty-six hours, was at last admitted to a half-share in a straw pallet. *His bedfellow was an imbecile dwarf with two goîtres*, who woke up at five in the morning to play Garibaldi's hymn on the hurdy-gurdy. . . . As to the imperfect intellectuality of the dwarf, I set little store by that. I have consorted much, in my time, with madmen and idiots, and found them very pleasant company. But the line might be drawn, I think, at one wen. A dwarf with two goîtres is rather too much even for the endurance of a newspaper correspondent."

On April 22d, 1867, two dwarfs, Samuel Neild and Janet Campbell, who were then engaged at a theatre in Sunderland, were married together at the parish church of that town. The bridegroom was forty-nine years of age, and forty-two inches in

height; and the bride was thirty-seven years of age, and thirty-eight inches high.

In July, 1867, Christian Frederick Schafer, a German dwarf, arrived at Melbourne, having walked there overland from Sydney. He had travelled over a great portion of the globe, and traversed a space of about one hundred thousand miles, of which nearly sixty thousand miles were accomplished on foot. He was thirty-one years of age, a native of Hesse Cassel, and he commenced his travels about fifteen years ago, with the object of writing a history of the world. He could without any great fatigue walk forty miles a day for many days in succession. His intention in July last was to visit India, China, Russian Tartary, and Siberia, before his final return to Germany. This stupendous feat he hoped to accomplish in about three years and a half; and afterwards he intended to produce his book of travels in English.

In Bedford county, in America, resides "Colonel" Josephus Chaffin, who is about forty-two years of age, twenty-seven inches high, and weighs between twenty-five and thirty pounds. He has all the appearances of manhood, and he converses with vivacity and intelligence. His face is worn, sunken, and wrinkled, and its lower part is covered with tangled red hair. His voice is of a childish treble, and particularly mournful. He is, however, cheerful and hopeful in disposition, and not in any way sensitive about his singular dwarfishness. Many years ago he was exhibited in all the cities of North and South

America, and excited much interest and wonder; but since that period he has been living in obscurity in Bedford county. He is said to have been a Douglas democrat; to have participated in the distress and anxiety of the Southern people; and to believe that secession was the cause of the war in his country. The father and mother of this curious mannikin were both stout and hearty persons, as are also his two brothers.

There is now living a Methodist preacher, named Noble, who is only an inch taller than Tom Thumb. He has adopted a sensational style of discourse, and caused some interest in various country places, where he has preached to as many as three or four thousand persons at one time.

Lately died in Paris an eccentric character who, according to the *Daily Telegraph* for September 17th, 1867, "was immensely old, and wonderfully diminutive. He had a cheerful look, sparkling eyes, and long gray hair. He is supposed to have passed more than half his life riding in omnibuses. . . . This eccentric would begin his omnibus pilgrimages, from the quarter where he lived, at seven in the morning. First he went to the Palais Royal; thence he would take another journey. He set aside half an hour for his breakfast, and an hour for his dinner, passing all the rest of the day in omnibuses; and he always contrived to obtain a ticket for the last omnibus which went, at midnight, from the Palais Royal to the Barrière du Trône. He preferred a corner near

the door, so that he might chat with the conductor. One of his eccentricities was, that on entering a vehicle he always asked for a 'correspondence' ticket, entitling him to ride gratuitously in another omnibus belonging to the same line; but of this he very rarely made use. Habitually he stuffed the ticket into his pocket, and paid afresh on beginning the next journey. Two or three days since he entered his accustomed restaurant, partook of dinner, and then, saying he felt drowsy, asked the waiter to allow him to snatch a short nap, and to wake him up in time to catch the next omnibus for the Batignolles; but when the waiter came to wake him the poor little man was dead: he had been carried off by an apoplectic stroke. The police speedily obtained his address, and it was discovered that the omnibus eccentric was a native of Nantes, who had lost his wits through the unexpected inheritance of a considerable fortune. The consistent eccentricity of this little old man has been explained on the score that in his *dementia* he imagined himself to be a secret inspector of omnibuses, whose duty it was to go about and report the number of passengers, in order to detect the possible frauds committed by omnibus conductors. When an inventory was taken of his effects, fifteen hundred omnibus 'correspondence' tickets, carefully sorted and labelled, were found in one of his drawers."

Some time in the present century a dwarf named Elizabeth Dean, living at Nottingham, who was

twenty-seven inches high, thirty-four years of age, and as feeble and incapable as a child of a year old, was accidentally scalded by the upsetting of a kettle, and from the injuries which she received she died in a few days afterwards. An inquest was held upon her body, and a verdict of accidental death returned.

Henry Stephens relates an anecdote of a dwarfish man who had espoused such a giantie woman that he was obliged to climb upon a table if he wanted to kiss her. This woman, says our author, when her husband was vexed or out of humour, would look down as if from a two-pair-of-stairs window, and ask who it was that kept grumbling there below.

A man who was below the middle stature said that he could boast of two negative qualifications, namely, that he never wore a *great* coat, nor ever lay *long* in bed.

A barrister who was severely cross-examining an attorney of diminutive stature, a witness in a cause at a provincial assize, asked him, among other things, what his profession or calling was. "An attorney," was the answer. "*You* an attorney?" said the counsel rudely; "why, I could put you in my pocket." "Very probably," rejoined the other, "and if you did you would have more law in your pocket than you have got in your head."

Dwarfs' money was the name given to certain ancient coins found in some places in England. Gough, in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, 1789,



says that money of the Cæsars, called dwarfs' money, was often found at Kenchester, in Herefordshire.

Among the dwarfs about whom we have been unable to obtain information are — Mattias Gulliaë, whose portrait and autograph were disposed of at Mr. Fillinham's sale; Jacob Ries, a foreign dwarf, whose whole-length portrait has been engraved; Mademoiselle Catharina, whose portrait also has been published; a German dwarf, who was exhibited at the Egyptian Hall; and an Englishman named Birch, who when full grown measured only twenty inches in height.

## APPENDIX.

Giant Statues at Bamian—Giants' Graves—Giants' Beds—Giant of Trendle Hill—Hindú Legend—Scandinavian Giants—Tall Zealander—Tall Woman—Sutherland—German Giant—Giant Duke of Saxony—The Child of Hale—Great George—Miller the Giant—Irish Giants—Walking in Stilts—Wiltshire Giant—Prussian Guards—Tall Essex Woman—Great Man of Waes—Giant Girl—Italian Giant—Tall Youth—MacGrath—Byrne—Cotter—Man Mountain—Tall Women—Bamford and Lord Mountford—plays the Dragon—Giant Soldier—Long Tom—Aerostatic Giant—Giants in the Clouds—Giant Girl—Chilcott.

Page 19. In Hindostan are many giant figures, cut out in stone, some in excavations, and some upon the surface of the earth. Of the last kind are three gigantic statues at Bamian, cut in stone, clear from the mountain of which they once formed part. The tallest is about seventy cubits high, and the shortest about twenty cubits.

Page 44. Gough, in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, 1789, mentions that at Lugna Clogh, near Sligo, was a cromlech of large stones, under which human bones had been found, and which was called the Giant's Grave. In the same county, certain caves, cut out of the rock of Corren, were called the Giant's House, the almost inaccessible entrance to which had a path about one hundred paces long before it, also cut out of the rock. At Ballymas-candlan, near Dundalk, in Louth, was a cromlech of an oval form, twelve feet long by six feet wide,

weighing between thirty and forty tons, and resting upon three other stones. This was called the Giant's Load, and was said to have been brought there by Parraghbough M'Shaggean, a giant, whose grave, a cell of stonework twenty feet long by five feet wide, was to be seen near it. Near Drumboe Hill, in Down, was a giant's ring, being an earthwork eight hundred and forty-two paces in circumference, enclosing a horse-course, and having a cromlech in the centre.

In Shernes or Saila, one of the Orkney Islands, outside the Dykes of Hamna, was a giant's grave, being a monument of standing stones, of which there were originally three; but in late times one was shortened, and another was on the ground broken. In Sanda, another of the Orkneys, was a grave nineteen feet long, traditionally belonging to a giant, who with his hand could reach as high as the top of the chapel there. In St. Mary, one of the Scilly Islands, on a craggy promontory, are certain massively piled-up and towering granite rocks, which have a castellated look, and have therefore been called the Giant's Castle; a grand and solemn edifice, built by that cunning architect, Nature, out of huge boulders. Near Tolshill, in one of the same islands, was a giant's cave four feet and a half wide at the mouth, thirteen feet and a half long, and three feet and a half high, covered entirely with flat stones. In the Isle of Man two lofty square pillars are called the Giant's Quoiting-stones.

The site of the Roman station at Castlefield, in Lancashire, was called the Giant's (or Tarquin's) Castle. A giant's cave in Westmoreland consisted of two caverns, one of which was circular, hollowed out of a rock, and having its roof supported by a central pillar of rough masonry. At Titterstone, in Salop, one of a series of columnar rocks is called the Giant's Chair; its pillars are fifteen or sixteen feet high, with intervening lengths of four, five, and six feet between the joints. Near Bristol is a cavern called the Giant's Hole. Near the Red Castle, a ruin in Shropshire, is an excavation in a hill, called the Giant's Well, the circular walls of which, above the rock in which it is formed, are of immense thickness. At Armley, near Leeds, is a giants' hill, from which a legendary giant threw a great stone into a lane situated at a good distance off, on the north side of the adjacent river, the hill being on the south side; and upon the stone the credulous may see the impression of the hero's fingers.

The Giant's Head is the name of a cape on the east coast of St. Christopher's. Giants' Beds are tumuli in Germany, particularly near the coasts of the Baltic, and on the Island of Rügen. They are of different sizes, sometimes very large, and generally enclosed with stones of great weight. They are supposed to be the graves of men who fell in the battles fought in those countries between the Germans and the Vandals. In Barbary is an ancient building called the Giant's Castle. In the Doge's palace at

Venice is the Giant's Staircase, which, in contradiction to its name, is small and elegant, being so called from the statues which adorn it. Circular holes on the banks of or in rivers, made by the whirling of the waters round stones or rocks, are sometimes called Giants' Pots. Places bearing that name are to be found at Rothbury in Scotland, in North America, North Germany, and Sweden.

Page 46. Vulgar tradition makes the figure cut on Trendle Hill, near Cerne, commemorate the destruction of a giant, who, having feasted on some sheep in Blackmore, and laid himself down to sleep on this hill, was pinioned and killed by the enraged peasants on the spot, who immediately traced his dimensions there for the information of posterity.

Page 59. A Hindú legend tells us that after the gods had fixed on the proper time for churning the sea of milk, or the White Sea, they found they could not accomplish the work without the assistance of the giants. Accordingly, the gods made peace with the latter, and gave the most solemn promise to share with them the fruits of their joint labours. The gods were a weak race, but full of cunning, and very crafty; while the giants were very strong, and without much guile. Having settled the conditions, they all went to work; and in their immense labours trees and mountains were used. The serpent Vāsucī was twisted round a mountain instead of a rope, and the giants held him by his head; but his fiery breath scorched them, and they became black. After churn-



ing for five years the froth began to appear, and afterwards gods and goddesses issued out of the waters.

Page 83. Purehas, in his *Pilgrimes*, mentions several Seandinavian giants and tall kings of Norway. He writes: "Concerning the giant Doffro, inhabitant of the mountayne Doffraefiall, in Norway, and foster father of Haraldus Pulerieomus, King of Norway. Also concerning Dumbo, who lived in the time of Droffon, from whom the Bay Boddick or Bothnieke in time past was ealled Dumbshaff, who in a sea-fight eneountering eighteen giants alone, sent twelve of them first to hell before he himselfe was slaine. Of thirtie giants at once destroyed by fire by Dumbo's sonnes left, in revenge of their father's death. There is yet a later example of certayne giants of Norway, destroyed by authority of Olaus Triggo, King of Norway, about the yeere of Christ 995. But the latest in the yeere 1338, Magnus, the son of Erieus, being King of Norway, that a giant of fifteen cubits was slaine by foure men."

Page 86. Evelyn, in his *Numismata*, 1697, mentions "the Zealander, so tall and strongly limbed, as at the muptial of the French king, Charles the Fair (1322-1328), he brought into the festival hall two tuns of beer, in either hand a tun."

In 1323 a woman, to whom the tallest men seemed like ehildren, resided in Holland. Her parents were of short stature. She was so strong that she could lift up in one hand a barrel full of Ham-

burgh beer, and could easily carry more than eight men could.

Page 87. William Sutherland, of Berrydale Castle, who lived at the end of the fifteenth century, measured nine feet five inches in height.

Hakewill says that in 1511, the Emperor Maximilian I. being at Augsburg at an assembly of the States of Germany, there was presented to him a man of an unreasonable height and greatness, who at a few mouthfuls, and without any delay, would devour a whole sheep or a calf, roasted or raw, which only sharpened his appetite.

The same author also relates that John Frederiek, Duke of Saxony, and the great patron of Martin Luther, who died in 1546, was so big and tall that the Germans used to say of him that when other men were filled with wine he had scarce washed his sides. The Spaniards, as says Thuanns, in 1547, having taken him prisoner, drew off one of his boots, and for its unusual greatness sent it as a trophy to the Court of France.

Page 94. Britton, in his *Beauties of England and Wales*, 1807, says that Sir Gilbert Ireland took the Child of Hale to London, and (quoting from a Ms. account) "with some of the neighbouring Lancashire gentry, dizen'd him off with large ruffs about his neck and hands; a striped doublet of crimson and white round his waist; a blue girdle embroidered with gold; large white plush breeches, powdered with blue flowers; green stockings; broad shoes,

of a light colour, having high red heels, and tied with large bows of red ribbon; and just below his knees were bandages of the same colour, with large bows, and by his side a sword, suspended by a broad belt over his shoulder, and embroidered, as his girdle, with blue and gold, with the addition of a gold fringe upon the edge. We are traditionally informed, that his amazing size at one time frightened away some thieves who came to rob his mother's house." It is in the above dress that he appears in his picture at Hale.

Page 110. Thoresby, in his *Ducatus Leodiensis*, 1714, tells us that the parish register of Leeds records the burial of one Great George, on July 9th, 1644.

Page 114. Thoresby says that Miller "was born in the city of Leipsich, 13 Aug., 1683. He was the thirteenth of twenty-three children that his father had by his third wife (for in all he had thirty-nine). His father and rest of his relations were of the common stature, but himself, as I have it under his own hand this 16 May 1711, is long seven foot five inches." He had increased several inches by 1728. We think Thoresby is wrong in the date which he gives of Miller's birth, which happened about nine years before 1683.

Page 119. Thoresby thus writes: "Edmund Malloon, a young fellow from Ireland, who was publicly exposed here (Leeds) ann. 1681, the length of whose span I took upon my cane, but there is so particular

an account of him by Dr. Plot that nothing material can be added, only that in the three years' time betwixt the doctör's seeing him and mine, he seems to have grown two inches in height, for when here he wanted so much of seven foot and a half, being but sixteen years of age."

Thoresby, writing about 1714, and referring to 1681, says: "An Irishman has since been exhibited in the town of Leeds, whose stature exceeded eight feet. When I first saw him, the door of the room was open, and he was standing on the floor, but leaning with his elbow on the top of it, looking down the stairease. He was helpless and disproportioned, his thigh-bones being much too long, but when applied as a scale to the objects about him, the room diminished to a closet, and the spectators to dwarfs."

Page 127. Cowley, a traveller at the end of the seventeenth century, refers to a woman who was a giantess, and yet walked always in choppines. These were high shoes or stilts anciently used by the Venetian women to increase their stature. Gray, in his *Tour on the Continent*, at the end of the eighteenth century, tells us that eioppini were so worn at Venice; and in 1795, one of these articles was preserved in a museum at Yarmouth; it was nearly one foot and a half high, and was described as an Italian lady's stilt.

Page 131. On May 22d, 1703, was exhibited at Halifax Jeremiah Street, a Wiltshire man, under whose arm a full-grown person could stand, with about an

inch clear. He was seven feet five inches high, corpulent and unhealthy. He fell sick at Bradford, where he died on June 13th, in the last-mentioned year.

Page 134. Augustus, King of Poland, a man of good stature, could reach only the chin of the tallest man of the Prussian guards with his hand.

Page 135. The tall Essex woman referred to on this page was Mrs. Gordon, who died in 1737, at her lodgings in Fleet-street, after two days' illness.

Page 136. Martin, in his work on the western islands of Scotland, written about 1716, says that a native of one of the Orkneys, who had died not long before, was for his stature distinguished by the name of the Miele or Great Man of Waes.

Page 140. The *Daily Post* for September 24th, 1728, says: "They write from Montrevil, on the sea coast in Picardy, that there is in the village of Herby, Boulonnois, four leagues from that town, in the road to St. Omer, a girl named Mary Franees Derban, who is the admiration of all that see her. She is but four years and a half old, being born the 15th of March, 1724, and nevertheless she is four foot high. . . . The physicians and surgeons of Montrevil who have viewed her have sent their reports of her to the faculty of Paris." She was in every physical way as fully developed as a woman twenty years of age; but her understanding and behaviour were those of a child of her own age. The same girl was



mentioned as a marvel in the *Daily Post* for July 19th, 1728.

Page 150. On September 23d, 1753, a girl of extraordinary strength and stature was presented to the royal family at Dresden. She was seven feet high, and only fifteen years of age.

Early in January, 1755, a stone coffin containing human bones was found in a field between Preston and Carnieot, a few miles from Bath. The bones were of uncommon bigness, and the stature of the person to whom they had belonged must have been about seven feet. The teeth were all perfect.

Page 151. The *Public Advertiser* for May 15th, 1756, contains the following advertisement of Bernardo Gigli: "The Italian Giant, a giant indeed! Who tho' but nineteen years of age, is eight feet high, and of admirable symmetry, is to be seen, from ten in the morning till eight at night, at a commodious apartment, at the Ship, next door to the blanket and carpet warehouse, in the Poultry. Price 1s. each person." Another newspaper for the same year says that this place of exhibition was opposite Grocer's-alley, and that the giant intended to start for Bristol on July 20th. Afterwards, he went on the Continent, as we gather from a newspaper of 1763, which says that he was at Vienna on June 22d, in that year, and that he was then twenty-seven years of age. This account tells us that he was a native of Riva, in the country of Trent; and gives his name as Bernard Gilli. Schreber, in his *History of Quadrupeds*, 1775,

mentions this giant under the name of Gilli, and as of Trent, in the Tyrol; and says that he was eight feet two inches high, Swedish measure.

Page 152. In March or April, 1760, died at Islington William Eccles, a young gentleman, aged sixteen years, and upwards of six feet in height.

Page 154. A newspaper of 1755 tells us that Macgrath was publicly exhibited at Hanau, in Germany, early in October, in that year. His height was so extraordinary, that a man six feet and a half high, with his hat on, could walk under his arm. He was three hundred and fifty-seven pounds in weight, very active, and grew daily, having within four weeks previously grown one inch in height.

Page 165. The *European Magazine* for June, 1783, the month in which Byrne died, says: "The very gravestones have taken alarm at the tax upon burials; and several meetings have been held by the tenants of churchyards, on the patriotic principle of protecting their successors. The Irish Giant heads their councils, and relies upon the friendship of the Peer of Derby and Tommy the Tit, to deliver a fee-faw-fum negative to two of the branches of the legislature when it is the next subject of their deliberations."

Page 170. If the following advertisement of 1779 was issued by Cotter—and we think it was—he probably came to London earlier than the date which we have given: "The surprising Irish giant, only nineteen years old, yet measures eight feet high, and is

allowed to be the most extraordinary person for size and proportion that ever appeared in Europe, is just arrived in this city, and to be seen at the house of Mr. Safford, watchmaker, opposite St. Stephen's Church, in Clare-street. Admittance from eleven o'clock in the morning till two in the afternoon, and from three in the afternoon till eight at night, at one shilling each person. N.B.—His stay in town will be but short, as he is on his way to London."

Page 176. Cotter styled himself the Man Mountain, a name by which the tall Duke of Cumberland (vide page 138) also was known in 1757.

Page 188. A newspaper of March, 1762, tells us of the interment at Bilston, near Birmingham, of Mary Mitton, aged fifty-two years, whose coffin was six feet seven inches long, three feet in depth, and three feet six inches wide.

Page 189. In 1768 was married Edward Radcliffe, a shopkeeper, at Wath, in the county of York, to Miss Betsy Adamson, of that neighbourhood, who was upwards of six feet high, and of very fine figure.

Bamford, the English giant, was exhibited in Cockspur-street, and was visited there by many persons. Among the rest who went to see him was Lord Mountford, with a party of ladies. This nobleman was diminutive in size, but he had sufficient good sense to receive humorously and to laugh at jokes levelled at his small person. When he visited

Bamford his lordship was in high spirits, and his wit made him shine before the ladies whom he escorted, and who were much amused with his sallies; even the giant himself laughed. When the show was over Lord Mountford offered Bamford a gratuity, according to a common custom; but the latter refused to take it; and when it was pressed upon him he said, "My lord, it is impossible for me to take the fee for this exhibition, for I do assure your lordship, if you consider me as a curiosity, I think you equally so; and if you have been gratified with the sight of me, I have been if possible still more entertained with having the honour and pleasure of seeing you."

Bamford had a considerable share of humour, and a voice deep, sonorous, and well-adapted to his great figure. He used to sing in the choruses at Covent Garden Theatre, and he played the dragon in the *Dragon of Wantley*, his deep voice making him a very surly monster. He is represented in a mezzotinto print leaning over a bass-viol; this print contains the portraits of other musical persons, and is called the Catch Club.

Page 190. On September 11th, 1769, died in Dyer's-street, St. Giles's, Peter Brennan, at the age of one hundred and four years, who was six feet eight inches high, and was called Long Meg of Westminster. He had been a soldier ever since he was eighteen years old.

The *Scots' Magazine* for March, 1773, contains a

poetical epistle from the author to his mistress, in which he tells her that he loves her

“ More than Long Tom those who treat him ;”

but who Long Tom was we are unable to state. Probably he was some well-known tall public character of the period.

Page 192. In February, 1785, the Parisians were promised that an ærostatic giant, eighteen feet in height, ballasted in such a manner as to preserve its perpendicular, should be let off from the Tuileries, to ascend into the air. This colossal figure was to be accompanied by several others of smaller size. It was anticipated that if this flying giant, or any of his suite, should fall in a country where ærostatic machines were unknown, the inhabitants would be terror-stricken to see men descend from the clouds.

Page 193. On July 13th, 1788, a heavy storm did much damage to the crops in France. The farmers said that during the tempest two giants were seen peeping out of the clouds, and threatening, with terrible countenances, ominous frowns, and high-sounding words, that they would return the next year on the same day, with greater scourges than the then present ones. Many of the people, terrified at the report of this vengeful appearance, abandoned their houses, and left the district.

In October, 1788, died suddenly at the sign of the Clifford's Tower, upon Peasholm-green, in York,



where she had been exhibited for a few days previously, a gigantic girl, named Ann Groves, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, who was only five years old in June in that year. She was four feet in height, four feet two inches round the breast, four feet six inches round the hips, and eighteen inches round each leg; and she weighed near two hundred-weight. She was very beautiful, handsomely made, well-proportioned, active, and agreeable. She was buried in St. Cuthbert's churchyard, Peasholm.

Page 205. About June or July, 1815, died at Trenaw, in Cornwall, in consequence of an apoplectic fit, a giant named Chilcott, who was sixty years of age, and six feet four inches high, without his shoes; he measured six feet nine inches round the breast, and weighed about four hundred and sixty pounds. One of his stockings held six gallons of wheat. The curiosity of strangers who came to visit him gave him much pleasure, and his usual address to them on such occasions was, "Come under my arm, little fellow." He was almost constantly smoking; the stem of the pipe which he used was only two inches long, and he consumed three pounds of tobacco weekly.

Page 257. Paul Veronese, in his "Marriage at Cana," now in the Louvre, has introduced a dwarf. This, no doubt, is an anachronism, as are also the negro and greyhounds in the same picture; but it shows that dwarfs were common at the entertainments of the great in Italy in 1563, when this "Marriage" was painted.



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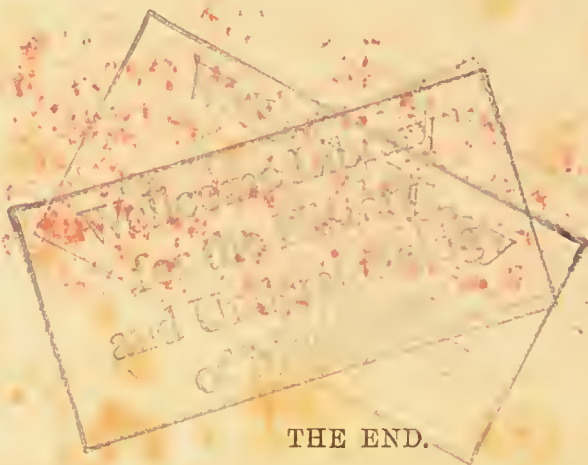
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THE END.





